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Weekend

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Illinois Gov. Blagojevich is said to be "upbeat."

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Two Good? Tebow shoots for 2nd-straight Heisman | 14

ENTERTAINMENT

One on One: *Frank Langella* and Michael Sheen dazzle in 'Frost/Nixon.' Plus, 'Doubt,' the movie.

>> 19-30

Mugabe Declares Cholera Outbreak Over

TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/AP

HEALTH CONCERN: A young boy prepares to drink clean water from a borehole in Harare, Zimbabwe on Thursday. President Robert Mugabe declared there was "no cholera" in Zimbabwe, even as the U.N. raised its death toll from the epidemic to 783. ✣ **Cholera cause:** County lacks clean water | **Page 7**

Auto Bailout Stalls in Senate

Lawmakers hold high-stakes negotiations to save $14B plan

WASHINGTON | With time growing short, the $14 billion auto industry bailout bill stalled in the Senate on Thursday as Republicans demanded upfront concessions from the United Auto Workers as the price for their support.

UAW and auto industry officials were in talks with key Republicans and Democrats at the Capitol. Officials said the negotiations centered on possible wage and benefit concessions from the United Auto Workers union as well as large-scale debt restructuring by General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC. "We're closer to agreement," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said after several hours of talks, although he also said an accord remained elusive.

It was not clear how far any of the participants were willing to go to seal the federal aid that General Motors and Chrysler said was essential to keep them from bankruptcy.

The developments unfolded after Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky joined other GOP lawmakers in announcing his opposition to a White House-backed bill that was approved by the House on Wednesday. He called for an alternative that would reduce the wages and benefits of the Big Three automakers to bring them in line with those paid by Japanese carmakers Nissan, Toyota and Honda. (AP)

McConnell

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FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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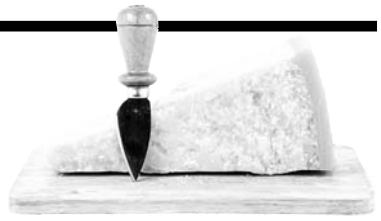
TODAY: Decreasingly cloudy and breezy; clearing for the weekend | 42

eyeOpeners

FOOD

Let Them Eat Cheese



With data showing a growing underclass and food lines now in most major cities, the Italian government has come up with a way to help the needy while propping up one of its iconic industries. Agriculture Minister Luca Zaia has committed to buying 100,000 66-pound wheels each of Parmigiano Reggiano and the very similar Grana Padano cheese to donate to the needy. Producers sought government help in the face of prices that have fallen some 25 percent over the past five years, said Giorgio Apostoli, who represents dairy farmers for the Coldiretti agriculture lobby. The producers faced pressure from distributors who offer sharp discounts on the grateable cheeses to lure shoppers into supermarkets. (AP)

DEATH

And the Worms Get a Nice Lunch Out of It

For animal rights activists, sticking up for critters is a way of life. Now, it can be a way of death, too. A New Mexico company is building all-wood human coffins in a partnership with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. They bear slogans such as "Lifetime PETA Member" or "Told You I Wouldn't Be Caught Dead in Fur!" The coffins are priced from $620 to $670, which includes a $75 PETA contribution. They are designed to be Earth-friendly, with no screws, nails, hinges or animal-based glues. (AP)

MICHAEL LATZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

HOLIDAYS

Season's Grinnings

In December, Christmas takes over the Western world entirely, infiltrating every aspect of our lives. Even personal hygiene feels the pull of the holiday season. Witness this toothbrush, designed by Heidi Herzig, pictured here, for a Christmas tree-themed art exhibition at the academy for design in Karlsruhe in southern Germany. Perhaps it cleans your teeth and fights cavities via the same magic Santa uses to get all the way around the world in one night. (EXPRESS)

ANIMALS

Road-ent Warrior

Aw, nuts. That's likely what Hope Wideup thought when her car's turn signal and windshield wipers wouldn't work. It's also what she found when she opened the hood. "There were thousands in there. They were everywhere," she said, speculating a chipmunk found its way into her car, which had been sitting idle for several weeks, and used the engine compartment to store a trove of black walnuts. "Apparently this little guy stuffed a bunch of these nuts in the accelerator throttle," said Wideup, who had to spend $242 for towing and repairs. (AP)

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LOST PASSION: If you love something, set it free. And if you can't, call the police. Police in Dearborn, Mich., responded to a call Thursday morning from a man who handcuffed his wife to their bed but misplaced the key. Police used a universal key to free the woman.

Nation

In Brief

C. MOSS/SCIENCE/AP

This handout photo shows elephants in a natural free-range park in Kenya.

WASHINGTON

Study: Zoo Living Reduces An Elephant's Life Span

Zoo elephants do not live as long as those in the wild, according to a study sure to stir debate about keeping the giant animals on display. Researchers found that the median life span for African elephants in European zoos was 16.9 years, compared with 56 years for elephants who died in Kenya's Amboseli park. Adding in those elephants killed by people in Africa lowered the median life span there to 35.9 years. (AP)

ORLANDO

Skeletal Remains of Child Are Found in Central Florida

A team of medical examiners and detectives were hustling to identify the skeletal remains of a child found in a wooded lot in central Florida Thursday, hoping to solve the six-month-old mystery of a missing toddler. Caylee Anthony, 3, has been reported missing since July. There was nothing that immediately indicated the remains were hers. (AP)

Spokesman: Blagojevich Is 'Upbeat'

Ill. governor clinging to office as lawmakers talk of impeachment

CHICAGO | With pressure mounting by the hour for him to resign or face impeachment, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich returned to work Thursday in what an aide described as an attempt to "return to normalcy."

Blagojevich, facing federal charges accusing him of putting President-elect Barack Obama's seat up for sale, did his best to ignore, or appear to ignore, the storm swirling around him.

Obama has called on Blagojevich to step down. Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn urged lawmakers to quickly begin impeachment proceedings. And the state's attorney general threatened a last-resort option of getting a state high court order declaring Blagojevich unfit to serve.

"Illinois is in crisis," Quinn said at the state Capitol.

Blagojevich, meanwhile, returned for a second day to his Chicago office and was in an "upbeat, positive" mood, spokesman Lucio Guerrero said.

Blagoyevich

"There's a sense of trying to return to normalcy," he said, adding that he doesn't know whether Blagojevich will step down.

Allegations that the governor tried to sell or trade Obama's Senate seat form just part of the federal charges that led to his arrest Tuesday. Obama said at a news conference that neither he nor members of his staff were involved in making a deal with the disgraced governor.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan again threatened to go to the state Supreme Court to have Blagojevich declared unfit to hold office if he doesn't resign soon or get impeached.

Legislative leaders planned a special session Monday to strip Blagojevich of his power to pick a new U.S. senator. (AP)

NEW ORLEANS | IT'S SNOW UNUSUAL

ALEX BRANDON/AP

FLURRIES DOWN SOUTH: Snow falls in the Garden District of New Orleans Thursday as a woman crosses the tracks after getting off a streetcar on St. Charles Avenue. A rare snowfall blanketed south Louisiana and parts of Mississippi, closing schools, government offices and bridges, triggering crashes on major highways and leaving thousands of people without power. Office workers in New Orleans stepped out of high-rises to catch a snowflake and snap pictures.

Judge Blocks Sale of Religious S.C. Auto Plates

COLUMBIA, S.C. | A federal judge says South Carolina must stop marketing and making license plates that feature the image of a cross and the words "I Believe."

The judge issued a temporary injunction during a court hearing Thursday after opponents said the specialty plates violate the separation of church and state.

U.S. District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie said the case needs to be heard in court. In the meantime, the judge said the state's Department of Motor Vehicles cannot take any more orders for the plates. A spokeswoman said the agency stopped taking such orders more than a month ago. (AP)

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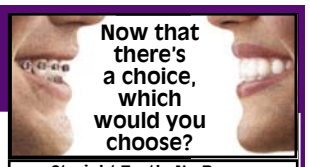

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Nation

31 **The number of auto fatalities, in thousands,** in the U.S. through the first 10 months of 2008, a 9.8 percent decline from 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said.

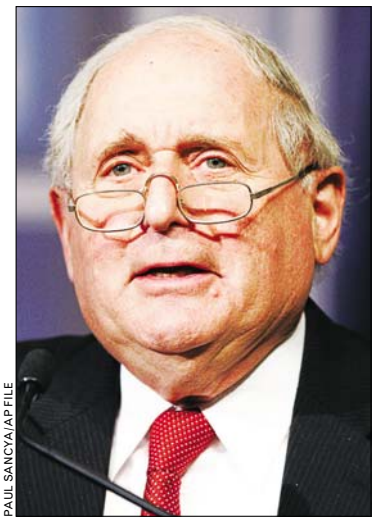
Report Slams White House

Investigation: Harsh interrogations were result of Bush policies

WASHINGTON | The physical and mental abuse of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was the direct result of Bush administration detention policies and should not be dismissed as the work of bad guards or interrogators, according to a bipartisan Senate report released Thursday.

The Senate Armed Services Committee report concludes that harsh interrogation techniques used by the CIA and the U.S. military were directly adapted from the training techniques used to prepare special forces personnel to resist interrogation by enemies that torture and abuse prisoners. The techniques included forced nudity, painful stress positions, sleep deprivation, and until 2003, waterboarding.

The report is the result of a nearly two-year investigation that directly links President Bush's policies after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, legal memos on torture, and interrogation rule changes with the abuse photographed at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq four years ago. Unclassified portions of the report were released by the committee Thursday.


PAUL SANCYA/AP FILE

Sen. Carl Levin said the White House is to blame for the abuse of detainees.

Administration officials publicly blamed the abuses on low-level soldiers— the work "of a few bad apples." Committee Chairman Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., called that "both unconscionable and false."

"The message from top officials was clear; it was acceptable to use degrading and abusive techniques against detainees," Levin said.

Arizona Republican and former prisoner of war Sen. John McCain, called the link between the survival training and U.S. interrogations of detainees inexcusable.

"These policies are wrong and must never be repeated," he said in a statement.

Lawrence Di Rita, a senior aide to former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld at the time the Abu Ghraib and other abuses took place, disputed the report.

"This oddly timed report provides no evidence that contradicts more than a dozen other investigations that found that there was no systematic or widespread detainee mismanagement," Di Rita said.

PAMELA HESS (AP)

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Nation

CHEESY ENDING: People might think twice about committing a crime when there's snow on the ground. Or at least not head right home. That's the lesson after police in Joliet, Ill., followed footprints from the spot where a pizza deliveryman was robbed to a house on the same block and arrested four teens late Tuesday.

Calif. Adopts Tough Emission Rules

State board approves comprehensive plan to fight global warming

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. | California air regulators adopted a sweeping new climate plan Thursday that would require the state's utilities, refineries and large factories to transform their operations to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The California Air Resources Board voted unanimously to adopt the nation's most comprehensive global warming plan, outlining for the first time how individuals and businesses would meet a landmark 2006 law that made the state a leader on global climate change.

RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Solar power panels are seen in Sacramento, Calif. Air regulators in California approved the nation's most sweeping plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions Thursday.

The plan would hold California's worst polluters accountable for the heat-trapping emissions they produce — transforming how people travel, how utilities generate power and how businesses use electricity.

At the heart of the plan is the creation of a carbon-credit market designed to give the state's major polluters cheaper ways to cut the amount of their emissions. That market and the many other strategies referenced in the plan will be fleshed out and adopted over the next few years.

California's plan comes at a time when governments around the world are struggling with a financial crisis that threatens to undermine efforts to fight climate change. California itself is facing a forecast budget gap of $41.8 billion through June 2010.

Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Thursday that California was providing a road map for the rest of the country.

"Today is the day we help unleash the full force of California's innovation and technology for a healthier planet, a stronger and more robust economy and a safer and more secure energy future," Schwarzenegger said. SAMANTHA YOUNG (AP)

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HIGHEST HONOR: Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has named a peak in the Caucasus Mountains in honor of Russian spies. Putin's office says he signed a resolution to call a previously nameless 10,788-foot-tall mountain the Peak of Russian Counterintelligence Agents.

World

Blast Kills 55 at Restaurant in Iraq

Suicide attack occurs during local leaders' reconciliation meeting

BAGHDAD | A suicide bomber killed at least 55 people Thursday in a packed restaurant near the northern city of Kirkuk where Kurdish officials and Arab tribal leaders were trying to reconcile their differences over control of the oil-rich region.

The brazen attack — the deadliest in Iraq in six months — occurred at a time of rising tension between Kurds and Arabs over oil, political power and Kirkuk.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack at the upscale Abdullah restaurant, which was crowded with families celebrating the end of the four-day Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha.

The U.S. blamed the blast on al-Qaeda, which uses suicide bombings as its signature attack.

EMAD MATTI/AP

Iraqi soldiers inspect a restaurant after a suicide attack killed at least 55 people there in Kirkuk, Iraq, on Thursday. The attack was Iraq's deadliest in six months.

Police Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qadir, who gave the casualty figures, said the dead included at least five women and three children. About 120 people were wounded.

It appeared, however, that the target was a reconciliation meeting between Arab tribal leaders and officials of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Kurdish party of President Jalal Talabani, on ways to defuse tension among Arabs, Kurds and Turkomen in the Kirkuk area.

Kurds want to annex Kirkuk and the surrounding Tamim province into their self-ruled region of northern Iraq. Most Turkomen and Arabs want the province to remain under central government control, fearing the Kurds would discriminate against them.

Iraq's parliament exempted the Kirkuk area from next month's provincial elections because the different ethnic groups could not agree on how to share power.

A guard at the restaurant said the blast occurred moments after a man parked his car and walked inside. He was not searched because the guards were not told to do so, the guard said. ROBERT H. REID (AP)

DESMOND KWANDE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe speaks at a state funeral on Thursday.

Mugabe: Cholera Outbreak Is Over

HARARE, ZIMBABWE | President Robert Mugabe declared Thursday that there was "no cholera" in Zimbabwe and the country's health crisis was over, even as the United Nations raised the death toll from the epidemic to 783.

Cholera has spread rapidly in Zimbabwe because of the country's crumbling health care system and the lack of clean water. The U.N. said 16,403 cases have been reported.

Last week, Zimbabwe declared a health emergency due to cholera and the collapse of its health services.

At a state funeral Thursday for a ruling party official, Mugabe insisted the outbreak of the waterborne disease had been "arrested."

He lashed out at critics who have been calling for his ouster — and even military intervention — as concerns about Zimbabwe's deepening humanitarian crisis mounted.

"So, now that there is no cholera, there is no cause for war anymore," he said. ANGUS SHAW (AP)

Pakistan Shutters Islamic Charity

Move comes after U.N. ties group to Mumbai terror attack suspects

MURIDKE, PAKISTAN | Pakistan moved aggressively Thursday against an Islamic charity with links to militants suspected in the Mumbai attacks, freezing the group's assets, putting its leaders under house arrest and padlocking its offices.

ARSHAD BUTT/AP

A police officer locks the door of an Islamic charity in Lahore, Pakistan.

The moves against Jamat-ud-Dawa could help convince India and the United States that Pakistan is cracking down on militants blamed for the Nov. 26-29 assaults, but it also risks igniting Muslim anger at its already shaky, secular government.

The action came a day after the United Nations listed Jamat-ud-Dawa as a front group for Lashkar-e-Taiba, which was blamed for the strikes. The U.N. also subjected Jamat-ud-Dawa to sanctions as a terrorist group, including an asset freeze and travel ban.

Pakistan has already announced the arrests of 20 militants and has vowed to work with its neighbor.

India, which says the attacks were carried out by Pakistanis and plotted by militants in Pakistan, remains skeptical of the response. (AP)

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3 **The approximate number of Muslims, in millions,** who traveled to the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for the hajj pilgrimage this year. The event ended Thursday, without a repeat of the deadly stampedes that marred past pilgrimages, mainly thanks to security measures implemented since 2006.

Greek Unrest Spills Beyond Borders

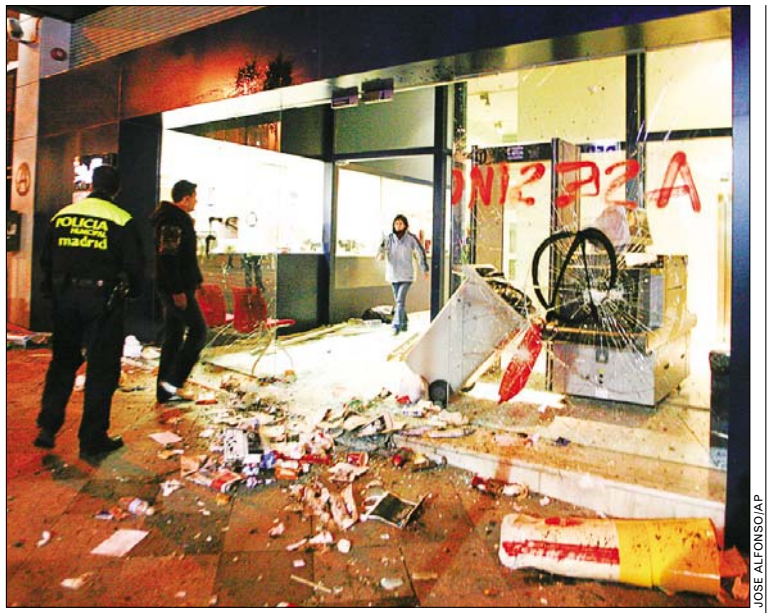
Violent protests spread into nearby countries, aided by online alerts

MADRID, SPAIN | The unrest that has gripped Greece is spilling over into the rest of Europe, raising concerns the clashes could be a trigger for opponents of globalization, disaffected youth and others outraged by the continent's economic turmoil and soaring unemployment.

Protesters in Spain, Denmark and Italy smashed shop windows, pelted police with bottles and attacked banks this week. In France, cars were set ablaze Thursday outside the Greek consulate in Bordeaux, where protesters scrawled graffiti warning about a looming "insurrection."

At least some of the protests were organized over the Internet, showing how quickly the message of discontent can be spread, particularly among tech-savvy youth. One Web site Greek protesters used to update each other on the locations of clashes asserted there have been sympathy protests in nearly 20 countries.

More demonstrations were set for Friday in Italy, France and Germany.



JOSE ALFONSO/AP

A police officer inspects a shop that was vandalized by protesters in Madrid on Wednesday. Ongoing riots in Greece have inspired protests across Europe.

Still, the clashes have been isolated so far, and nothing like the scope of the chaos in Greece, which was triggered by the police killing of a teenager on Saturday and has ballooned into nightly scenes of burning street barricades, looted stores and overturned cars.

Nevertheless, authorities in Europe worry conditions are ripe for the contagion to spread.

As Europe plunges into recession, unemployment is rising, particularly among the young. Even before the crisis, European youths complained about difficulty finding well-paid jobs — even with a college degree — and many said they felt left out as the continent grew in prosperity.

In Greece, demonstrators handed out fliers Thursday listing their demands, which include the reversal of public spending cuts that have brought more layoffs, and said they were hopeful their movement would spread.

"We're encouraging nonviolent action here and abroad," said Konstantinos Sakkas, a 23-year-old protester at the Athens Polytechnic, where many of the demonstrators are based. "What these are abroad are spontaneous expressions of solidarity with what's going on here."

PAUL HAVEN (AP)

Gates: More U.S. Troops to Afghan War by Summer

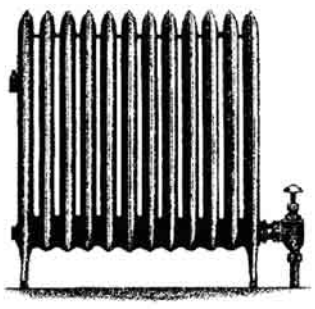
MANAMA, BAHRAIN | The U.S. military will pour thousands of troops into Afghanistan by next summer, and can expect to commit a sustained force for several more years, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and his top military commander there said Thursday.

Gates

Visiting Afghanistan for the second time in the past four months, Gates said the Pentagon is moving to get three of the four combat brigades requested by commanders into Afghanistan by late spring or early summer.

In his most specific comments to date about how soon he will meet the call for up to 20,000 more troops in Afghanistan, Gates said he will not have to cut troop levels in Iraq to free up at least two of those three brigades for Afghan duty. (AP)

OFF SEASON SPECIALS



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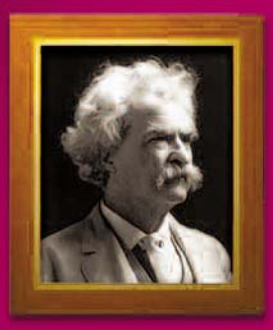
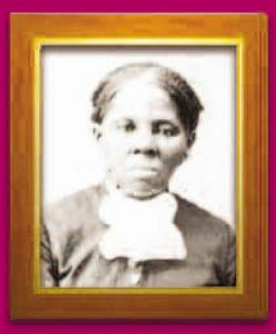
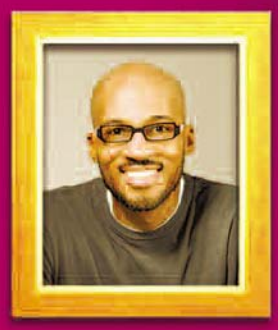


Mark Twain
Author
(1835-1910)



Harriet Tubman
Abolitionist
(c.1820-1913)



Kymone Freeman
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(Present day)

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World

Study: Vaccination Data Exaggerated

Countries may have inflated numbers to receive U.N. money

LONDON | Dozens of developing countries exaggerated figures on how many children were vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough, which allowed them to get more money from U.N.-sponsored programs, a new study said Friday.

Research in the medical journal the Lancet said only half as many children were vaccinated than was claimed by countries taking part in programs meant to reach kids in poor nations. The findings raise serious issues about vaccination programs — and whether money earmarked for children is actually reaching their intended recipients.

"With the unprecedented billions given by the international community, there is no excuse for these poor coverage rates," said Philip Stevens, of the International Policy Network, a London-based think-tank. "One has to wonder where the money has gone."

American researchers analyzed records of children supposedly vaccinated by initiatives led by the United Nations and related groups like the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, or GAVI.

From 1986 to 2006, the United Nations reported that 14 million children received immunizations in the programs. But the reports from the independent surveys put that number at just over 7 million.

"The magnitude of the gap is surprising," said Christopher Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics at the University of Washington and the study's lead author.

Experts suggest that inflating the numbers is part of a larger problem in attracting limited resources.

"That's how you get money," said Ken Hill, a public health professor at Harvard University who was not linked to the study. MARIA CHENG (AP)

COMPARATIVE LIT.

→ In the study, scientists examined reports developing countries gave to the U.N. on how many children were immunized.

→ They then compared those figures to independent surveys on vaccination conducted by nongovernment groups. (AP)

CHINA | PLAYTIME

CHINA PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

YOUTHFUL ENERGY: A 3-month-old giant panda plays at the Bifengxia base of the China Giant Panda Protection and Research Center in Yaan, China, Thursday. Thirteen panda cubs have been born at the site since the May 12 earthquake destroyed many critical panda habitats in the region.

CAMERA CONFLICT: AAA Mid-Atlantic is calling for some speed cameras to be removed in Montgomery County, Md., and the agency questions whether the devices are making roads safer or just generating millions of dollars for local jurisdictions, according to WTOP.

Local

D.C. Mayor To Request Aid Money

D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, a Democrat, plans to press federal officials for money for the District from the economic stimulus package that President-elect Barack Obama and federal lawmakers are discussing, aides to the mayor said Thursday.

"We are preparing to ask for money from the stimulus, and we're putting together a package right now," said mayoral spokeswoman Mafara Hobson. She said more details on the needs described in the city's request would be released in the next several days.

The news of Fenty's plans comes as states across the country are analyzing their budgets and compiling their wish lists for federal officials in the face of job losses and shrinking tax revenue from the declining economy.

On Thursday, a nonprofit group, D.C. Appleseed, released a report stating that the District's unique status as a federal city means it must shoulder extra financial responsibilities, and local lawmakers called on the incoming administration to recognize the District's burden.

Walter Smith, Appleseed's executive director, said the report, which has chapters authored by experts on the District's finances and history of governance, had been under way for more than a year. Smith said the ongoing national discussion of bailouts for Wall Street and American automakers presents the perfect opportunity to discuss the District's fiscal needs.

THEOLA LABBÉ-DEBOSE AND HAMIL HARRIS (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Compromise on Bar Hours Mulled

D.C. Council member looks to alter measure for inauguration week

A D.C. Council member filed formal notice Thursday that he intends to propose a new emergency law that would alter the terms of the council's legislation that extended the hours of operation for bars and nightclubs during inauguration week.

Tommy Wells, D-Ward 6, was among the 9-4 majority that last week approved the bill that allows bars, nightclubs and restaurants to serve alcohol until 5 a.m. — several hours later than normal — and stay open all night from Jan. 17 to 21.

But Wells, in consultation with his colleagues, is crafting a revised bill that would roll back some of the new rules and set tougher restrictions on the nightlife establishments, said his chief of staff, Charles Allen.

Wells filed notice in the D.C. registry to offer his emergency bill at Tuesday's council meeting. "There's a lot on table," Allen said. "We haven't finalized the language."

Also, council members said they did not intend for last week's legislation to override the "voluntary agreements" many bar and nightclub owners have signed with neighborhood groups. Those agreements often set strict limits on such things as operating hours and live music. The voluntary agreements are likely to remain enforceable, said Doxie McCoy, a spokeswoman for council Chairman Vincent C. Gray, a Democrat.

DAVID A NAKAMURA (THE WASHINGTON POST)

PARTY PLANNING

Among the changes being considered in the revised bill:

- Rolling back alcohol service from 5 a.m. to 4 a.m., the same as New Year's Eve.
- Potentially excluding Jan. 18 from the extended hours.
- Creating a registration date for establishments interested in staying open later. That would help police know where to monitor and force owners to decide about participation before Jan. 17.

IN The Washington Post | NEW BUILDING APPROACH

RICKY CARIOTI/TWP

GREEN THEME: The Towers office building in Rockville, Md., developed by Jeffrey Abramson, is environmentally friendly and is rooted in Vedic principles stemming from transcendental meditation. ✣ **Space grace:** Vedic architecture is based on Sanskrit texts about spatial relationships. | **Today's Metro**

Montgomery Discontinues BusRadio

ROCKVILLE, MD. | The Montgomery County school system has decided to end its experiment with BusRadio, a network that broadcasts sanitized music and advertisements aimed at students.

Brian Edwards, chief of staff to Superintendent Jerry Weast, confirmed to The Washington Post on Thursday that a decision had been made to end the trial.

The radio network was introduced in February, with units placed on bus routes that serve about 6,000 students in the Rockville area.

Officials had considered expanding the program to all the county's buses. But parent activists began raising questions this week about the wisdom of exposing student bus riders to advertising, which is a small but crucial component of BusRadio programming. (AP)

CAROL GUZY/TWP/FILE

The Montgomery County school system has ended the BusRadio pilot program.

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The Lotteries

Thursday, Dec. 11

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Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	4-4-6
Mid-day DC 4	3-6-3-5
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	2-5-4-2
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	8-13-18-23-32
Daily 6 (Wed.)	7-11-14-23-26-32 Bonus: 9
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	10-30-33-35-36 (11)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	9-9-7
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	8-6-8
Mid-day Pick 4	2-9-0-1
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	2-9-6-9
Match 5 (Wed.)	26-29-32-35-37 Bonus: 15
Lotto (Wed.)	6-17-33-36-39-40

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	5-3-1
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	2-6-7
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	9-0-6-6
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	5-7-2-0
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	3-18-19-21-30
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	2-3-6-11-26
Win for Life (Wed.)	10-24-31-33-37-42

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Money

Jobless Requests Pour In

Employment outlook darkens as major bank considers 35K job cuts

WASHINGTON | New claims for jobless benefits surged last week and came in worse than expectations that were already gloomy — and economists say the figures would get even worse without an auto industry bailout.

Initial applications for unemployment benefits rose to a seasonally adjusted 573,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. That was nearly 50,000 more than economists were expecting and up from a revised 515,000 the week before.

The last time so many Americans filed new jobless claims in a single week was in 1982, although the labor force has grown by about half since then.

4.4

The number of people, in millions, currently drawing jobless benefits in the U.S., according to the Labor Dept.

Adding more damage to the labor market, Bank of America said it expected to cut as many as 35,000 jobs over the next three years, including some from investment bank Merrill Lynch, which it agreed to buy in September.

The reports, along with investor concerns about the auto bailout bill's future, sent stock markets falling. The Dow Jones industrial average finished down almost 200 points, closing at 8,565.

Most Americans expect the jobs situation to get even worse, according to a poll released Thursday by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Sixty-three percent think unemployment will increase next year.

The number of people continuing to claim jobless benefits also jumped much more than expected, increasing by 338,000 to 4.4 million, the department said.

As a proportion of the work force, the number of people continuing to receive benefits is the highest since August 1992, when the U.S. was recovering from a mild recession.

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER (AP)

CHICAGO | SIT-IN SUCCESS

E. JASON WAMBSGANS/AP FILE

NEW AGREEMENT: Workers celebrate outside the Republic Windows and Doors factory Wednesday after voting to approve a $1.75 million agreement, ending a sit-in that lasted six days. Workers at the shuttered Republic Windows & Doors will get eight weeks' salary, all accrued vacation pay and two months' paid health care under the agreement.

Households Cut Debt for First Time

WASHINGTON | U.S. households, hit by declining home values and stock market losses, have cut back on their debt levels for the first time on record as loans remain scarce amid what appears to be a deepening recession.

The Federal Reserve on Thursday released its latest quarterly look at consumer and business finances, showing that households reduced their debt levels by 0.8 percent at an annual rate in the July-September period, the first drop in records that go back more than 50 years.

The decline in household debt levels is evidence of the severe credit squeeze that is occurring as banks, saddled by billions of dollars of losses in mortgage debt, have tightened lending standards and made it harder for people to get loans if any kind. (AP)

Sunday in The Washington Post

TWP

FOLLOW THE LEADER: Wally Glass preps some of his Alaskan huskies for a ride through mountainous Colorado terrain. Glass runs a service called Mountain Musher.

Try This in Sled

Dogsledding is a fun, no-frills alternative to winter ski trips

IN TRAVEL | Ten giddy dogs bound down the snowy path pulling a small sled of equally happy humans. There's barking and laughing.

We bump across mounds of snow and speed around a curve. Then a black husky gets his left hind leg tangled in the tether. We wince as Jet is dragged along the packed snow.

"Hang on, Jet!" the musher yells. "Hang on, buddy."

Turns out, there's no real way to stop a dogsled careening down a mountain run. No pull on the reins, no brake, can stop 500 pounds of pumped-up dogs. Not on this kind of hill.

Poor Jet. He skids into Yogi, the golden husky behind him. With the adrenaline flying, Yogi snarls and snaps at Jet's backside.

Mercifully, the path levels off. And we all have work to do. Musher Cameron Bevard yells for me and Jackson, my 10-year-old son, to hop out and stand on the brake at the back of the sled while he untangles Jet.

Few family outings can match this for fun, and fun with jaw-dropping mountain vistas.

Here in Wolcott, Colo., down the road from chichi Vail, dog-sledding stands out for its simple authenticity. There are no boots, bindings or fancy skis. No grinding, gas-powered snowmobiles, either. Just 50 barking dogs, five handmade wood sleds and three families basking in a cold, blue-sky Sunday morning.

We decided to dogsled because not everyone in our family skis — and because my kids love dogs with the same intensity that I don't want one to follow us home. This was pretty safe; 1,800 miles is far even for Lassie.

It's pricey. But Mountain Musher Dog Sled Rides picks us up at our hotel and takes us to the Lazy J Ranch in Wolcott. We pile two to a sled with pillows behind us and heavy wool blankets on top.

It's an hour's ride up the groomed trail and half that time going down. One musher points out fresh animal tracks. Could be coyotes, he says. We're hoping it's deer.

Wally Glass runs Mountain Musher. He wears the kind of cowboy hat that you know is not for show.

His wife, Denise, is home in tiny Bond, Colo., where she takes reservations. She makes the pumpkin bread and hot chocolate served at a mountaintop break. Daughter Sarah is a musher, too.

All told, they care for 89 Alaskan huskies: silver-gray huskies that might pass for wolves, black huskies, brown huskies and ones with pale, golden coats. Mountain Musher buys dog food 2 or 3 tons at a time.

When Yogi nipped at Jet, he got a stern talking-to from Bevard. But the musher is not worried about the two dogs' patching things up. Male dogs put their dustups behind them by day's end.

Not so for female dogs. They can hold a grudge for no telling how long, the mushers say. Usually, a female dog is kept apart from a dog she has had a beef with for a couple days, until things blow over.

Today, all the dogs are perfect, like the blue sky and the sun reflecting off the snowcapped Rockies. At the end of our sled ride, back at the staging area, the kids take a long time saying goodbye to the dogs. Jackson says something special to each one of the 10 dogs on our team. They wag their tails; some lick his face.

My heart melts. Well, maybe we could get — nah. Time to go. SUSAN FEENEY (SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST)

for more ...

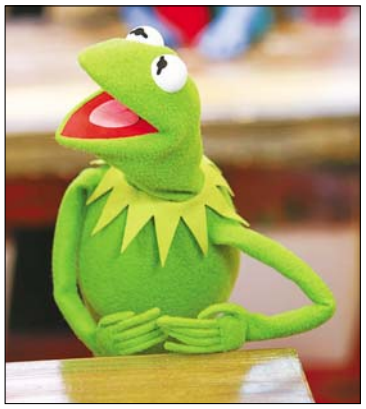
SUNDAY IN TRAVEL

To read more about dogsledding, and to get information about planning your own trip, see the Travel section in Sunday's Post.

IN The Washington Post

5 more reasons to read

THESE STORIES AND MORE **THIS SUNDAY**



'Tis the Season

A roundup of new holiday programs, including an appearance by Kermit and his Muppet pals. **TV WEEK**

Band Practice

@Play columnist Mike Musgrove test-drives the latest versions of "Guitar Hero" and "Rock Band 2." **BUSINESS**

Heroes for Hire

Can a nearly blind artist make it in the world of superhero comic books? Andre Campbell is willing to give it a try. **THE MAGAZINE**

All That Jazz

You don't need a degree in musicology, cultural studies or advanced goatee-stroking to enjoy jazz music. We offer a primer and 10 must-listen albums. **SUNDAY SOURCE**

It's Fundamental

The best books of 2008 for the little ones, preteens and teens. Plus, a helping of picture books, mysteries and more. **BOOK WORLD**

Sports Weekend

CAPITALS
Bang-Up Job: Despite a rash of injuries that have left the team short-handed, the Capitals are still finding ways to win. | **18**

Swengali

NATIONALS | BY MATT SWENSON

Nats Try to Step Up to the Plate

ALL OF A SUDDEN, our Washington Nationals are major players in the Hot Stove League.

According to The Washington Post, the Nats did their best New York Yankees impersonation by offering first baseman Mark Teixeira an eight-year, $160 million contract. If the one-time All-Star accepts, he'd make more money than the rest of the team combined.

Apparently, the empty seats in that beautiful new stadium sent a message. The Nats are the aggressors in a free-agent market thrown into flux by the sour economy.

Free agents who could command huge paychecks would typically ignore a team like the last-place Nationals. But with traditional winners feeling the pinch, the Nats have stepped up.

Apparently, the empty seats in that beautiful new stadium sent a message.

All that said, I'm fairly certain Teixeira will bypass Washington. His ties to Severna Park, Md., would show a local allegiance to Baltimore. That would be the best for the Nats, since Teixeira is not a player you build a championship team around.

The sportswriter in me is cheering for Manny Ramirez, whose big bat and quirky personality are always entertaining. Baseball sense points to someone like Orlando Hudson and another player.

At least the Nationals are acting like a team eager to start winning. Intentions only go so far, though. The team can ill afford to come out of this offseason empty-handed.

@ | To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

JOHN RAOUX/AP

Florida quarterback Tim Tebow throws a pass against LSU earlier this season. Tebow is looking to become just the second player to repeat as the Heisman Trophy winner.

Two-Timing Tebow?

Florida QB aims to be 2nd repeat winner of the Heisman Trophy

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Tim Tebow did less, and Florida accomplished more.

Tebow didn't come close to matching the gaudy numbers of last year, when he became the first sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy, but he's been arguably more valuable to the No. 1 Gators this season.

He picked up his teammates after the early season loss to Mississippi and has led them on a nine game winning streak since, motivating everyone to play at a higher level and putting the Gators one win away from the national title.

"There's just no way for anyone to know how important he is to us," receiver Louis Murphy said. "He does it all."

The two-time Southeastern Conference player of the year could join a most exclusive club when the Heisman is handed out Saturday — Archie Griffin is the only two-time winner of college football's most prestigious individual award. But he said he is focused instead on winning the national championship.

Tebow became the first college player with at least 20 touchdown passes and 20 rushing touchdowns in 2007, carrying a team that finished 9-4 and out of the SEC race.

His stats were down this season, but not his play. He ranks fifth in the nation in passer rating (176.7) with 28 touchdown passes. He hasn't had to run as much, but still has 564 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns. And his two fourth-quarter touchdown drives against Alabama in the SEC title game put him back in the middle of the Heisman race.

Tebow grew up following the annual Heisman presentation, and having tracked the race as a voter this time, Tebow believes he knows what makes someone deserving of the award. He even has a checklist, which includes leadership skills, athletic ability, being able to win games and setting yourself apart.

Though Tebow declined to reveal his vote, he did say he narrowed it down to himself and Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford.

"It's been a better season for me, being a quarterback, being a leader, a decision-maker. I've had a better season, maybe not making plays, but everything else, it's been better." MARK LONG (AP)

THE CANDIDATES

A case can be made for each of the three quarterbacks to win the Heisman on Saturday:

- **Sam Bradford, Oklahoma**: He leads the nation with 48 touchdown passes and a 186.3 quarterback rating, throwing for 4,464 yards with only six interceptions.
- **Colt McCoy, Texas**: His 77.6 percent completion percentage would be an NCAA record; he has thrown for 3,445 yards passing and 32 touchdowns, and rushed for 10 more scores.
- **Tim Tebow, Florida**: He is fifth in the nation in passer rating with 28 touchdown passes, and rushed for 564 yards and 12 TDs.

GOLF | **Flash of Anger** John Daly smashed a spectator's camera into a tree while shooting a 6-over 78 in the first round of the Australian Open on Thursday, making it likely he will miss the cut for the third consecutive week down under. Daly said spectator Brad Clegg got too close

when taking a picture after the golfer pushed his tee shot into the woods on the ninth hole. So, Daly snatched the camera and smashed it against the nearest tree, telling the man, "You want it back? I'll buy you a new one." Added Daly: "My eyes are still burning from the flash of the camera." (AP)

Redskins' Backup Plan

1P.M. | FOX
Sunday

Washington goes into its final 3 games short on offensive linemen

REDSKINS | They've been banged up for so long, they were bound to break.

The Redskins' offensive linemen — who have battled through nagging but playable injuries this season while struggling to protect the quarterback — are shorthanded heading into the final three games of the season.

Washington lost both starting tackles and a versatile backup to injuries in the 24-10 loss to the Ravens last weekend. Injuries — especially in the trenches — are bound to happen. But the team that allows the 10th-most sacks in the league can't be too comfortable starting new bookends on the road in a must-win game this weekend.

"It's not often that you lose three offensive linemen in the same game," quarterback Jason Campbell said. "But you've got to have confidence in the guys that [are] coming in there. You've got to rally behind them."

Pro Bowl left tackle Chris Samuels was lost for the year with torn right triceps. His substitute, Justin Geisinger, was then lost for the season with a meniscus injury. Starting right tackle Jon Jansen sprained his left knee and is expected to miss this weekend's game in Cincinnati.

"I think we faced similar things early in the season last year and we put together a group that gave us a chance to win games," guard Pete Kendall said.

The Redskins (7-6) were without Jansen and guard Randy Thomas for the bulk of last season, but Jason Fabini and Stephon Heyer filled in and Washington rode a strong running attack into the playoffs.

Fabini and Heyer will likely start again Sunday, with the former replacing Jansen at right tackle and Heyer protecting Campbell's blind side. "We've got to slide some guys in, and they just have to rise up and play well," coach Jim Zorn said.

Though the Bengals (1-11-1) are having a horrible season, this game may not be as easy as it seems.

Even with the first-team line, Washington has scored just 53 points in its last five games, four of which were losses. "We can't play tight [on offense]," Campbell said. "I feel like that's what we've been doing is playing tight." ERIC BRANDNER

PRESTON KERES/TWP

Redskins starting right tackle Jon Jansen is out with a sprained knee, and starting left tackle Chris Samuels is done for the season with a torn right triceps muscle.

MAN OF THE MOMENT: If the Redskins are going to win again this year, they're probably going to need Clinton Portis to carry a big load:

➜ Portis' teammates didn't see as a problem his contentious comments about the direction of the offense and personal playing time earlier this week. "I love Clinton — the way he approaches the game," linebacker London Fletcher said. "He believes in what's going on. He's not a guy you need to get that message to [to play hard on game day]." Most of the players — who held a meeting among themselves Wednesday — said a win Sunday against Cincinnati would settle any grumblings. "It was something on my chest that I needed to get off, and I did," Portis said. E.B.

X Factors

➜ **Bengals WR T.J. Houshmandzadeh**
Of Cincinnati's receivers, Chad Ocho Cinco may attract the most attention, but it is T.J. Houshmandzadeh who leads his team in receiving yards. His 885 yards is almost 380 yards more than his vocal teammate. He is averaging 9.9 yards a catch and has four TDs but has had more than 100 yards in only two games. However, both came against NFC East opponents, the Giants and the Eagles, so the Redskins should beware.

AP

Ryan Plackemeier has been erratic.

➜ **Redskins P Ryan Plackemeier**
In November, Ryan Plackemeier led NFC punters in fan votes for the Pro Bowl. But he has not put up All-Star numbers. Plackemeier, who took over for rookie Durant Brooks six games into the season, has averaged 40.4 yards a punt, an improvement of less than one yard from Brooks' average and 29th in the league. With his inconsistent play — his average swinging from 47 yards against Dallas to 31.7 against Seattle in one week — who knows what he'll do? KATE YANCHULIS

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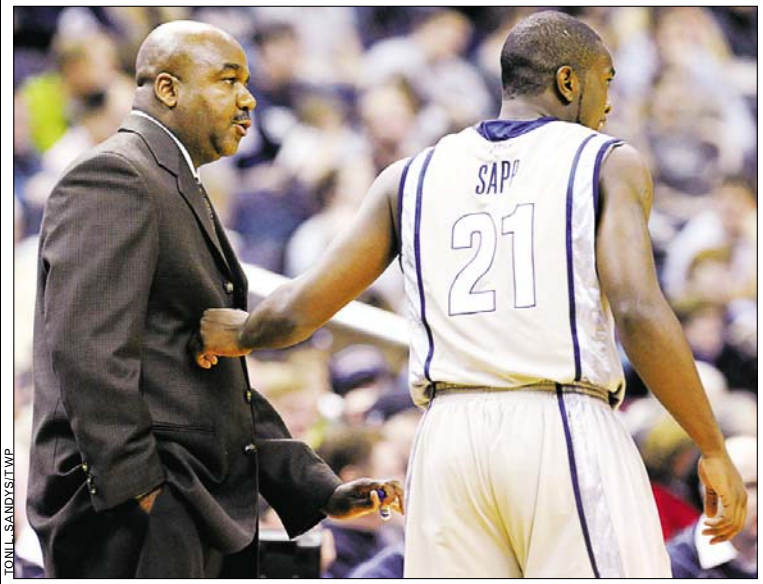


TONI L. SANDYS/TWP

Georgetown coach John Thompson III gives some last-second advice to senior guard Jessie Sapp. The No. 19 Hoyas host the No. 17 Memphis Tigers on Saturday.

The Hoyas Go With the Flow

Thompson stresses the little things ahead of game vs. Memphis

HOYAS HOOPS | Don't put a stat sheet in front of John Thompson III.

He may look at it, but only briefly. His interest lies in something he can describe only as "flow."

Is it tempo? "Pace is irrelevant," responded Georgetown's men's basketball coach, who is readying the Hoyas for Saturday's game against No. 17 Memphis (5-1).

How about effort? "I wouldn't categorize it as laziness," he said, when pressed after complaining about the Hoyas' performance against American last Saturday. "The rhythm of the game," the coach finally articulated about "flow."

Did we mention American scored just 12 points in the first half of a 73-49 Georgetown victory? Yet Thompson wasn't satisfied and went as far as to say he just finished a bottle of Pepto-Bismol after the win.

The coach admirably walks a fine line after each game, praising the opponent while dissecting flaws in his Hoyas and repeating, "It's about us." Last week, he thought American had too many open shots and Georgetown wasn't playing at a level it's capable of. Namely, the team wasn't in its "flow."

Even while joking about "flow," as sophomore Chris Wright enjoys — "I don't know why he calls it 'flow' — we're just out there playing," Thompson's players get the message.

ONES TO WATCH

When Georgetown met Memphis last year, Derrick Rose was the lone star freshman in the game:

→ And while Rose is playing for the Chicago Bulls, the Tigers have another first-year phenom: Tyreke Evans. The difference, though, is the Hoyas have a young stud, too, in Greg Monroe. Evans is averaging 16 points per game for Memphis, while Monroe (13.3 points per game) has reached double digits in scoring in all but one game. M.S.

The No. 19 Hoyas (6-1) know Thompson cares just as much, if not more, about their ability to prevent offensive rebounds as about the final score. It's the way that a coach who hates to look at the big picture sees what's ahead.

Even Saturday's game is just another chance for Thompson to prepare the Hoyas for Big East play. "It's not about the opponent," said Thompson, repeating his mantra. "It's about us trying to improve."

MATT SWENSON (EXPRESS)

A 'Bloodbath' in Baltimore

Steelers, Ravens will battle for AFC North lead in fierce rivalry

RAVENS | Steelers lineman Willie Colon predicts a "bloodbath." Ben Roethlisberger anticipates both teams limping out of the stadium. Any player not covered in bruises on Sunday evening, Hines Ward says, will not have played hard enough.

There will be no love lost between the Ravens and Steelers over Sunday's rematch, especially after defensive end Terrell Suggs bragged the Ravens put a bounty on Rashard Mendenhall before Ray Lewis' hard hit Sept. 29 in Pittsburgh ended the first-round draft pick's season.

The Steelers (10-3) were 23-20 overtime winners in perhaps the season's most physical game, but they were littered with injuries afterward.

GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker LaMarr Woodley sacks Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco in the team's first meeting of the year. The rematch is on Sunday.

They expect Sunday to be no different, especially because the Ravens (9-4) can tie for the division lead by beating them in Baltimore for the sixth season in a row.

Before the last match, Mendenhall angered the Ravens by texting Ray Rice that he expected a big game against Baltimore. On an Atlanta radio show several days later, Suggs said there was a bounty on Mendenhall and Ward. Though Suggs later said there wasn't a bounty, the NFL still investigated his comments.

So, what's this latest Steelers-Ravens chapter all about besides first place in the division? Mutiny against the bounty?

"They're all hated," Ward said of the Ravens. "Anybody in purple, they're hated. It's a respect, but there's no love for them. They're not inviting me to come out and eat crab cakes with them." (AP)

Deserved or Not, Redskins Rock Pro-Bowl Vote

REDSKINS | The Washington Redskins won the fan Pro Bowl voting in nine of 19 positions for the NFC, the result of an aggressive marketing campaign that paid dividends even for the lowest-rated kicker in the league.

Tallies released by the NFL Thursday show the Redskins on top where Pro Bowl consideration is deserved (linebacker London Fletcher) and where it's not (kicker Shaun Suisham, who leads the NFL in missed field goals).

Saints quarterback Drew Brees received the most votes overall, followed by Jets quarterback Brett Favre and Giants quarterback Eli Manning. But two Redskins were in the top 10: running back Clinton Portis (fourth) and tight end Chris Cooley (10th), but Dallas' Jason Witten won the tight-end vote.

Other Redskins who won their position include fullback Mike Sellers, tackle Chris Samuels, defensive tackle Cornelius Griffin, strong safety Chris Horton, free safety LaRon Landry and special teams player Khary Campbell. (AP)

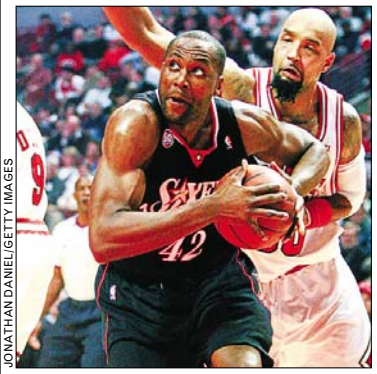
Sunday PICK'EM

	Matt Swenson SPORTS COLUMNIST, EXPRESS	Ian Herbert SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR, EXPRESS	Dan Steinberg D.C. SPORTS BOG, THE WASHINGTON POST	Dave Goldberg SPORTSWRITER, ASSOCIATED PRESS
REDSKINS (MINUS 6.5) AT BENGALS	**BENGALS** My cynicism knows no bounds. Redskins win, but they won't score enough to cover.	**BENGALS** I'll take the team that has won one of its last five. Oh, wait.	**REDSKINS** Stephon Heyer AND Jason Fabini? That's totally 2007.	**REDSKINS** The Redskins are battered. The Bengals are done.
STEELERS (PLUS 1.5) AT RAVENS	**STEELERS** Steelers are the class of the AFC at this point.	**STEELERS** If it's 0-0 late in the game, this one goes to Pittsburgh.	**RAVENS** If they can score 24 with a disastrous Flacco, what can't they do?	**RAVENS** Baltimore's defense should be the difference in this one.
GIANTS (PLUS 3) AT COWBOYS	**GIANTS** It's hard to see the Giants losing two straight.	**GIANTS** It doesn't matter — Dallas will lose its playoff game no matter what happens.	**GIANTS** When the best team in the NFL is given points, I accept.	**GIANTS** Desperation time for Dallas, but the Giants bounce back from the Philly loss.
BRONCOS (PLUS 7.5) AT PANTHERS	**BRONCOS** Just to mess up the NFC South, Carolina will suffer a letdown.	**PANTHERS** Carolina is the hottest team in the NFC.	**PANTHERS** Maybe Jim Zorn was trying to emulate their two-headed rushing attack.	**BRONCOS** The Broncos are the NFL's least-predictable team. They cover the spread this week.
VIKINGS (NO LINE) AT CARDINALS	**VIKINGS** Vikings need to win more than the NFC West champions.	**VIKINGS** Give the Arizona starters the week off to celebrate.	**CARDINALS** NFL's best RB vs. NFL's best QB? Take the QB.	**VIKINGS** Will the Cardinals relax after clinching the NFC West?
BUCS (PLUS 3) AT FALCONS	**FALCONS** Matt Ryan and co. stay in the hunt for a playoff spot.	**FALCONS** Same logic as last week — the NFC South insists on being confusing.	**FALCONS** NFC South teams are just dominant at home.	**FALCONS** If Tampa tackles like it did Monday night, Michael Turner might get 400 yards.

SEASON TALLY: Matt Swenson: 41-34-3 (3-3); Ian Herbert: 27-58-3 (3-3); Dan Steinberg: 45-30-3 (3-3); Dave Goldberg: 42-33-3 (4-2)

All picks are against the spread. Get more NFL coverage and chime in with comments on the Sports Bog at Blog.washingtonpost.com/dcsportsbog.

TV Lineup



JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

Elton Brand and the 76ers face the Wizards on Saturday night in Philadelphia.

friday

7 P.M. The Southeast Division-leading Capitals, hampered by injuries, play the Ottawa Senators, who are in last place of the Northeast Division. CSN+

8 P.M. The Maryland men's soccer team meets St. John's in the Final Four of the College Cup in Frisco, Texas. ESPNU

8 P.M. Maryland men's basketball begins a monthlong, seven-game home stand when the 6-2 Terps take on 2-10 Delaware State. CSN

saturday

2 P.M. No. 19 Georgetown plays No. 17 Memphis in this Top 25 battle at Verizon Center. CBS

7 P.M. The Capitals head to Montreal to play the Canadiens, who are second in the Northeast. CSN+

7:30 P.M. In a battle of the cellar dwellars, the 4-15 Wizards, who trail in the Southeast, take on the 9-13 76ers, last place in the Atlantic. CSN

8 P.M. Florida's Tim Tebow, Oklahoma's Sam Bradford or Texas' Colt McCoy will receive college football's Heisman trophy. ESPN

sunday

1 P.M. In the NCAA soccer title match, Maryland or St. John's will play either Wake Forest or UNC. ESPN2

1 P.M. After losing four of their last five games, the 7-6 Redskins hope to get back on track against the 1-11-1 Bengals. FOX

4:15 P.M. Baltimore can grab a share of the AFC North lead with a win at Pittsburgh. CBS

8:15 P.M. NFC East rivals New York (11-2) and Dallas (8-5) meet in a game with playoff implications. NBC

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JOHN MCDONNELL/TWP

Alexander Ovechkin slams the Bruins' Zdeno Chara into the boards in the first period of a 3-1 win Wednesday. The Capitals lead the Southeast Division with 35 points.

Injury-Riddled Caps Roll On

Team sits atop NHL's Southeast division despite health issues

CAPITALS | Maybe the best way to characterize just how injury-riddled the Washington Capitals have been is to think about the players who have been able to suit up in every game this season.

The list is only four deep (forwards Brooks Laich, Nicklas Backstrom and Matt Bradley, and defenseman Milan Jurcina) after forward Tomas Fleischmann missed Wednesday night's 3-1 win over Boston with a lower-leg injury, making the Capitals one of just two teams this season with less than six players to skate every game. The only other is Florida, currently four points out of a playoff spot.

And yet, the Capitals sit in first place in the Southeast Division with a comfortable six-point lead over Carolina as they prepare for a Canadian two-step this weekend, with games Friday night at Verizon Center against Ottawa and a quick road trip up to Montreal Saturday night.

Rookie Oskar Osala, the 10th player to shuttle between Washington and Hershey in the past month, said even grizzled minor league veterans have told him the recent spate of call-ups puts the Capitals in rarified air, if there ever was such a thing for injuries.

SECRET OF SUCCESS

➜ One of the big reasons the Capitals have remained on top of the Southeast Division amid all these injuries has been the play of linemates Alex Ovechkin and Nicklas Backstrom. Ovechkin has had 32 points in his past 18 games, putting him ahead of his scoring pace a year ago, while Backstrom has had all nine of his goals this season in the last 15 games. The Swede had just 14 goals in 2007-08. M.G.

It makes what has transpired on the ice all the more remarkable. In just the past month, the Capitals have had wins over the top three teams in the Eastern Conference, culminating in Wednesday night's victory over conference-leading Boston, a team that had lost just once in its previous 16 games. The Caps are 9-3-2 this year against teams with more than 30 points.

MARK GIANNOTTO

FOLKSY FOLK
Group Effort: Inspired by a charitable cause, the Federal Reserve collective, including Vandaveer, left, takes over Iota tonight. | 22

Entertainment Weekend

RALPH NELSON/UNIVERSAL PICTURES

BOLD/BRILLIANT: Frank Langella and Michael Sheen are both stunning in their roles as Nixon and Frost, respectively.

Power Movie

'Frost/Nixon' is the stuff that Academy Awards are made of

FILM | "No holds barred," Richard Nixon urges to David Frost as the two prepare to sit down for a series of interviews in 1977.

As "Frost/Nixon" powerfully reveals, that statement contains equal parts promise and threat from both the disgraced figure on-screen and the actor playing him.

Frank Langella is positively formidable as the former president, a skilled manipulator under optimal circumstances whose desperate desire for rehabilitation makes him extra-dangerous.

Langella isn't doing a dead-on impression, which is preferable; Nixon's quirks have been imitated so frequently and poorly, such an approach risks lapsing into caricature. Rather, he has internalized a volatile combination of inferiority, awkwardness, quick wit and a hunger for power. He loses himself in the role with rumbles and growls, with a hunched carriage and the slightest lift of the eyebrows.

Langella and Michael Sheen, also excellent as the breezy British TV personality Frost, reprise the parts they originated in Peter Morgan's Tony Award-winning stage production. But you never feel like you're watching a play on film: The way Morgan has opened up the proceedings in his screenplay feels organic under the direction of Ron Howard, who's crafted his finest film yet, and one of the year's best.

"Frost/Nixon" is talky and weighty, but it moves along with a fluidity that keeps it constantly engaging. Upon seeing the image of Nixon smiling eerily as he boards a helicopter after resigning the presidency, Frost stands in front of a television transfixed. Hoping to lose the perception that he's a lightweight and gain some credibility — or rather, achieve fame in America — he approaches Nixon for an interview and promises money he doesn't have.

The former president hopes to use the opportunity to return to public life among the East Coast elite: He's bored with retirement and feels humiliated droning on for banquet crowds for cash.

And so they face each other for four interviews, which make up the film's second hour. Frost has gotten help cramming for this exam from British TV producer John Birt (Matthew Macfadyen), veteran journalist Bob Zelnick (Oliver Platt) ,and author and Nixon critic James Reston Jr. (Sam Rockwell). Rebecca Hall provides moral support as the sultry socialite Frost picked up in first class while flying to the United States.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

Keanu Reeves Pollutes 'Earth'

The remake of a 1951 sci-fi classic suffers from a lifeless lead

FILM | While the original 1951 sci-fi classic was a simple story of deep ideas, Keanu Reeves' remake is an overblown, puny-minded tale featuring extraterrestrials too stupid or lazy to do a background check on the species they condemn.

The new, dumbed-down "The Day the Earth Stood Still" predictably updates the nuclear warning of the original to a caution about our rapacious treatment of the planet itself. Reeves' Klaatu shows up proclaiming he represents a coalition of civilizations that are friends of Earth, and woe to us if we don't start treating their buddy more nicely.

After targeting humankind for extermination, he realizes we have our good points, too.

Jennifer Connelly's hard to buy as an astrobiologist who befriends the alien, and Kathy Bates is horribly miscast as the U.S. defense secretary.

DOANE GREGORY

Jennifer Connelly and Keanu Reeves take a good thing and totally ruin it.

The original offered a warm, wry, compassionate performance from Michael Rennie as Klaatu, an alien arguably more human than any of Earth's inhabitants.

The stiff and stony Reeves scores a new high on his own personal Zen-meter, coming across as so lifeless that he might as well have played Klaatu's inscrutable robot pal, Gort.

DAVID GERMAIN(AP)

Got Plans?

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I'm in the middle of a diet and fitness program. Are there any moderately priced restaurants that have healthy (and hot) options that will also please the non-dieting boyfriend?

Rock Creek comes to mind. All entrees are less than 600 calories and you can check out the nutrition info on every dish. Also, consider cuisine types that are generally considered healthy, like seafood.

➜ *Rock Creek, 4917 Elm St., Bethesda; 301-907-7625. (Bethesda)*

KATHERINE FREY/FTWP

Counting calories? Try anything (even the potato gnocchi) at Rock Creek.

I would like to buy my boyfriend a massage for Christmas but don't want him to feel uncomfortable in a "girly" spa. Can you recommend a day spa that a man would feel comfortable in that is near Old Town?

Serenity Day Spa isn't the girliest spa. If you're willing to trek into D.C., Nusta Spa and the Grooming Lounge come to mind.

➜ *Serenity Day Spa, 209 Madison St., Alexandria; 888-204-0310.*

➜ *Nusta Spa, 1129 20th St. NW; 202-530-5700. (Farragut North)*

➜ *The Grooming Lounge, 1754 L St. NW; 202-466-8900. (McPherson Square)*

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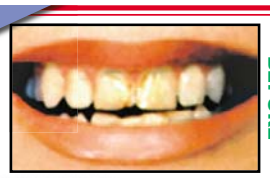

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Deliver Us From 'Doubt'

Pulitzer Prize-winning play unconvincingly moves to the screen

FILM | For a film about moral ambiguity, "Doubt" does an awful lot of hand-holding.

Philip Seymour Hoffman's character, a charismatic, maverick Catholic priest, is obviously a good guy, even though he's suspected of sexually abusing a male student. He drinks and smokes and plays basketball. He cares about the students' feelings at St. Nicholas — a rare feat, it seems, in the Bronx in 1964.

Meryl Streep, as the St. Nicholas principal, is obviously the villain for her unflappable certitude and fearsome authoritarianism.

None of the above is ever in question as writer-director John Patrick Shanley brings his Pulitzer Prize-winning play to the screen.

Shanley, whose only previous directing effort was 1990's "Joe Versus the Volcano," lacks the ability as a filmmaker to wring much nuance out of his own material in cinematic form. He relies too heavily on off-kilter camera angles and obvious symbolism to suggest turmoil — a torrential storm that churns leaves and snaps tree branches, for example — rather than allowing the story's innate tension to play out for itself.

As if we didn't get it, Streep's Sister Aloyisius Beauvier must then comment on the wild weather: "I've never known a wind like it," she remarks. "The wind has changed."

ANDREW SCHWARTZ/MIRAMAX FILM CORP.

Oscar winners Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman star in "Doubt."

One can safely assume she's not really talking about the wind.

She's talking about Hoffman's Father Flynn, who is kind and popular and therefore a threat to her total domination. When the young, naive Sister James (Amy Adams) thinks she sees something suspicious involving Father Flynn and Donald Miller (Joseph Foster II), the school's first black student, she reports it to Sister Aloyisius.

She has absolutely no doubt. And in case we were unsure of what "Doubt" is about, Shanley opens with Father Flynn delivering a sermon on the subject. Nothing subtle about that, and it only grows more heavy-handed from there until it builds to its crescendo: a screechy, repetitive screaming match in which Sister Aloyisius finally confronts Father Flynn, with decibels intended to reach the balcony. ("Doubt" is beautiful to look at, though, with its clean, clear outdoor light and warm interiors, the work of the always-great cinematographer Roger Deakins.)

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

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Weekend | Entertainment

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Catch Vandaveer and the rest of the Federal Reserve collective at Iota tonight.

Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

There will be plenty of groups of oddly dressed people bar-hopping on 18th Street tonight, but only one set of them will be raising money for a deserving charity while knocking back $1 beers. To spot that one, just look for the wigs. The Wig Walk, which starts at 6 p.m. at **TOLEDO LOUNGE**, raises money for Dr. Bear's Closet at the Children's National Medical Center. A $20 donation — 100 percent of which goes to buy toys for children at the hospital — gets you $1 beers on the crawl, which moves from Toledo (6 to 8 p.m.) to Madam's Organ (8 to 10 p.m.) before winding up at Adams Mill Bar and Grill. (10 p.m. to midnight). At least 100 people are expected to participate, which means you'll make some new friends before the night is over. Which leaves just one question: Why wigs? According to Wig Walk's Beth Dahlman, the idea was hatched when founders Kate Farrington and Leslie Hall were saying that they love living in D.C., but "unlike N.Y.C. or some other cities, it's just not the kind of place where you can walk around in a crazy wig without drawing strange looks."

One takeover of **IOTA** wasn't enough for the Federal Reserve collective this month. The local bunch of twangy, folky types will be raising money for Community Lodgings at tonight's showcase. The roll call looks to be pretty near complete, as mini-sets, collaborations and general revelry can be expected from Vandaveer, These United States, John Bustine, Revival, Rose, the Moderate and Brandon Butler.

SATURDAY

We can't believe it's been two years since Oh Snap! ended its run at **WONDERLAND**. DJ Meistro and Dave Nada's weekly romp established that spot as a dance club with the feel of a neighborhood house party, but the energy of a big room bashment. Over the last two years, Dave Nada has followed in the path of his friend and cohort Jesse Tittsworth. Meistro kept the Wonderland energy going with Deep Sang and expanded his local empire. These two will be reuniting tonight where it all started, which will likely yield a lot of sweat and inappropriate Facebook photos.

THE HOUSE OF SWEDEN caps off its very successful 2008 with the After Dark Lucia Ball, a black-tie party commemorating the Swedish holiday of Santa Lucia. In Sweden, the feast day of St. Lucia is marked by a procession of young women wearing crowns of candles, which symbolize her martyrdom and also light piercing the dark Scandinavian winter. The Swedish Embassy is sponsoring a Lucia procession, but the party also includes live music, an open bar, a Swedish buffet and drinks on the rooftop deck. All-inclusive tickets are $80.

Check out an extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" each Thursday at **washingtonpost.com/cityguide**

Now Playing

AUSTRALIA (PG-13, 155 minutes) Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman) is being driven across Faraway Downs by a mysterious, cynical cattle hand simply named the Drover (Hugh Jackman). Upon arriving at her husband's battered farmhouse near Darwin, Lady Sarah discovers that he has been killed. Although she came to Australia to coax her husband back to Britain, Lady Sarah decides to stay and drive her best cattle to Darwin, where the story shifts to a military action thriller. But even as he wraps his country in an adulatory glow, director Baz Luhrmann reserves the right to find fault, especially in the government's historic oppression of Australia's indigenous people. (AH)

BODY OF LIES (R, 128 minutes) With its urgent post-9/11 context and often brutal violence, it seems off-key to describe this film as a nifty political thriller, but that's what it is. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Roger Ferris, a crackerjack CIA operative stationed in the Middle East whose handler, Ed Hoffman (Russell Crowe), backs him up from Langley by way of a secure phone and all-knowing satellite camera. Ridley Scott's film clicks along at an engaging pace, legibly limning its multitude of characters and even throwing in a good bit of wry humor. DiCaprio, however, seems off his game. (AH)

JONATHAN WENK

AND ... WE'RE TERRIFIED: But if you're brave enough to go see "Punisher: War Zone" after looking at this, please enjoy it.

BOLT (PG, 95 minutes) As sprightly and determined as its fuzzy, yappy lead, this new Disney animated film works hard to be all things to all people, with mixed results. The story of Bolt, a TV-star pooch (voiced by John Travolta) who's accidentally mailed from Los Angeles to New York, the movie follows our hero (plus a cat and a daft hamster) across America in search of his owner and co-star, Penny (Miley Cyrus). DAN KOIS

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG-13, 93 minutes) The Berlin of director Mark Herman's film unrolls as an as-yet-unbombed 1940s stronghold of Teutonic family values, blinkered Germans and plummy-accented, English-speaking Nazis. Bruno (Asa Butterfield), the young son of this benighted family, will befriend an inmate his age named Shmuel (Jack Scanlon), hence the title and leaden symbolism of this adaptation of John Boyne's novel. (JA)

CADILLAC RECORDS (R, 109 minutes) There's a teeny little hole in the middle of this film, and it's right where you'll find Leonard Chess (Adrien Brody). As the founder of Chess Records, he champions the work of guitarist Muddy Waters (Jeffrey Wright, singer Etta James (Beyoncé Knowles), harmonica player Little Walter (Columbus Short), growling vocalist Howlin' Wolf (Eamonn Walker), the duckwalking Chuck Berry (Mos Def) and others, creating previously unheard-of opportunities for African American artists. But we're never given much insight into who Chess really is or why we should care about him. History is propelled forward by the film's over-reliance on such now-stale staples of musical biopics as the montage of nightclub marquees and ka-ching-ing cash registers, leaving little time in this speeding, noisy, overcrowded vehicle to take in anything other than the milestones that go whizzing past. (MO)

Continued on page 24

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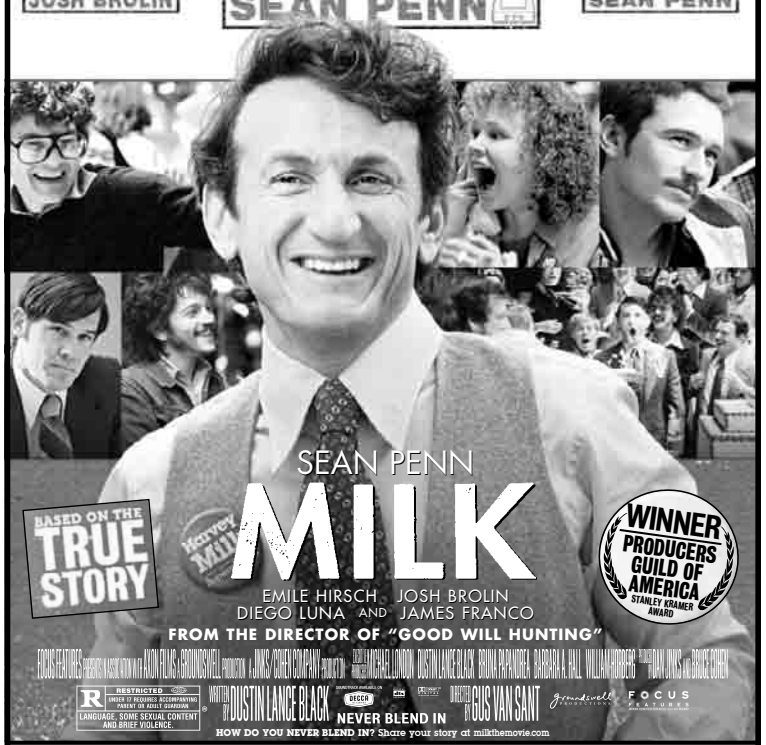

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Films Going for the Gold

"**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON**," pictured, "Frost/Nixon" and "Doubt" led the Golden Globes with five nominations each Thursday, though the former two had a leg up with best-drama slots. Other best-drama nominees: "The Reader," "Revolutionary Road" and "Slumdog Millionaire." Meryl Streep had two nominations, best dramatic actress for "Doubt" and best musical or comedy actress for "Mamma Mia!"; and Kate Winslet also had two, best dramatic actress for "Revolutionary Road" and best supporting actress for "The Reader." Also chosen for best dramatic actress were Anne Hathaway, "Rachel Getting Married"; Angelina Jolie, "Changeling"; and Kristin Scott Thomas, "I've Loved You So Long." Nominees for best dramatic actor were Leonardo DiCaprio, "Revolutionary Road"; Frank Langella, "Frost/Nixon"; Brad Pitt, "Benjamin Button"; Sean Penn, "Milk"; and Mickey Rourke, "The Wrestler." The year's biggest hit, the Batman blockbuster "The Dark Knight," came in with strong award buzz across the board but had only one nomination, best supporting actor for Heath Ledger as the Joker. Ledger died of an accidental prescription drug overdose on Academy Awards nominations day last Jan. 22. "This nomination is deeply appreciated and is not lost on those of us who continue to love and miss him," said his father, Kim Ledger, in a statement on behalf of the actor's immediate family. DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

Now Playing

Continued from page 23

CHANGELING (R, 140 minutes) Angelina Jolie's star is apparently so incandescent that it blinded Clint Eastwood to the story mechanics that have made his films so sound. It is 1928, and Jolie's character, Christine Collins, is a Pacific Telephone & Telegraph employee in Los Angeles. One day, she finds that her young son, Walter (Gattlin Griffith), is gone. Months later, the kid is returned to Collins. Case closed. Public happy. Except that the boy isn't her son. And for insisting that this is so, Collins is committed to an insane asylum. (JA)

FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13, 82 minutes) There's a good movie buried here, underneath the layers of baloney and ham, but we never get much of a taste. Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn play San Francisco lovebirds who avoid Christmas with their divorced parents by planning vacations disguised as volunteer expeditions. But this year, a thick fog grounds all the flights. Before Christmas Day is out, the pair has to make four separate stops, one for each divorced parent. Vaughn and Witherspoon, both peppy and likable, have before them four scenarios in which to preen, riff, jab and yuk-yuk. DAN ZAK

I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG-13, 117 minutes) It isn't very long before you're able to figure out what's eating Juliette (Kristin Scott Thomas), the haunted heroine who's reunited with little sister Léa (Elsa Zylberstein) after a 15-year separation in this film. Turns out that Juliette hasn't been away on a trip, as Léa tells her two young daughters, but in prison. The shameful reason why — and another, even more deeply buried secret — unspool with deliberate mystery in French writer-director Philippe Claudel's exquisitely rendered story of reconciliation and redemption. The dynamic between Juliette and Léa, who never visited her sister in prison, is the most fraught. And, in the hands of Scott Thomas and Zylberstein, the most rewarding to watch. (MO)

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG, 89 minutes) Visually captivating, this sequel to the 2005 hit about zoo animals on the lam suffers from a plethora of subplots and suggestive humor aimed at view

Now Playing

ers in the upper range of its PG-rated demographic. This is, after all, a movie that opens with a shamelessly crowd-pleasing shot of four boogieing animal tushies. Those ample posteriors belong to Alex the lion (Ben Stiller), Marty the zebra (Chris Rock), Melman the giraffe (David Schwimmer) and Gloria the hippo (Jada Pinkett Smith), who are on their way back home to the Central Park Zoo when their plane crashes into the African veld. (AH)

MILK (R, 128 minutes) Gus Van Sant has painted a vivid, affecting portrait of Harvey Milk, who in 1978 joined the San Francisco Board of Supervisors as the first openly gay man to be elected to American public office in the United States. Sean Penn virtually disappears into his character, burying any trace of native mannerism or accent and emerging as a wholly convincing New York Jewish boy made good. What makes the film extraordinary isn't just that it's a nuanced, stirring portrait of one of the 20th century's most pivotal figures, but that it's also a nuanced, stirring portrait of the thousands of people he energized. Van Sant shifts his focus throughout the film from Harvey himself to the movement he so ingeniously led. That push-pull approach flawlessly suits the idea Van Sant expresses most subtly: That history isn't a straight line but an often heartbreaking two-steps-back gavotte. The point, as Harvey Milk taught so many so well, is to stay in the dance. (AH)

ERIC LEIBOWITZ

ALL IN THE LABEL: Jeffrey Wright stars as Muddy Waters in "Cadillac Records."

NOBEL SON (R, 110 minutes) Eli Michaelson, who has just won the Nobel Prize for chemistry, is a garden-variety narcissist and egomaniac, cruel to his family and friends, and predatory with his female students. When son Barkley, who studies cannibalism, is kidnapped, dark figures and secrets from Eli's past emerge, rearranging the family chess-

Continued on page 26

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Continued from page XX

board and driving even poor Barkley (perhaps) to practice what he studies. It's all wildly implausible and occasionally fun, but it could be so much better if director Randall Miller had thrown in a little more character development and excised a half-dozen crazy plot twists. We see where this might have gone when Eli (Alan Rickman) and his wife, Sarah (Mary Steenburgen), interact for a few, normal, human minutes in a car, coming back from the Nobel ceremony. But then a gruesome package arrives, and the movie lurches back to roller-coaster mode. PHILIP KENNICOTT

QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13, 106 minutes) In his breakout 2006 performance as 007 in "Casino Royale," Daniel Craig proved an able successor to the man who defined the role, Sean Connery. In its sequel, all the dash and elan of that film has been leached out, leaving Bond little more than a serial killer with Bombay Sapphire eyes and a good tux. Gone are the lush locales, libidinous sex scenes and playful puns. Gone, indeed, is all the fun. Thank heaven for Judi Dench, whose M provides the film its sole quantum of peppery brio. (AH)

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R, 113 minutes) The bravura way director Jonathan Demme juggles the hurly-burly of an upscale wedding — made hurlier and burlier by the arrival, straight from rehab, of the title character's (Rosemarie DeWitt) high-maintenance sister Kym (Anne Hathaway, like you've never seen her) — harkens back to the darkness and emotional complexity of "The Silence of the Lambs" and the madcap energy of "Something Wild." There's a dark secret, too, but its lurking presence never feels cheap or forced. (MO)

ROLE MODELS (R, 99 minutes) Danny and Wheeler tool around Los Angeles, in a monster truck that snorts fire, peddling an energy drink called Minotaur to school kids, as if it's an anti-drug alternative. Danny, bored with it all and losing his girlfriend, drives the truck into a statue of a horse. Such is the beginning of the film in which Danny (Paul Rudd) and Wheeler (Seann William Scott) are ordered to complete 150 hours of community service mentoring troubled teens — or go to jail. Danny hooks up with Augie (Christopher Mintz-Plasse), a stereotypical dweebish white kid who wears a cape and is absorbed in role-playing games. Wheeler gets Ronnie (Bobb'e J. Thompson), a stereotypical black kid with a bad attitude and a potty mouth. Danny must connect with Augie, of course, in

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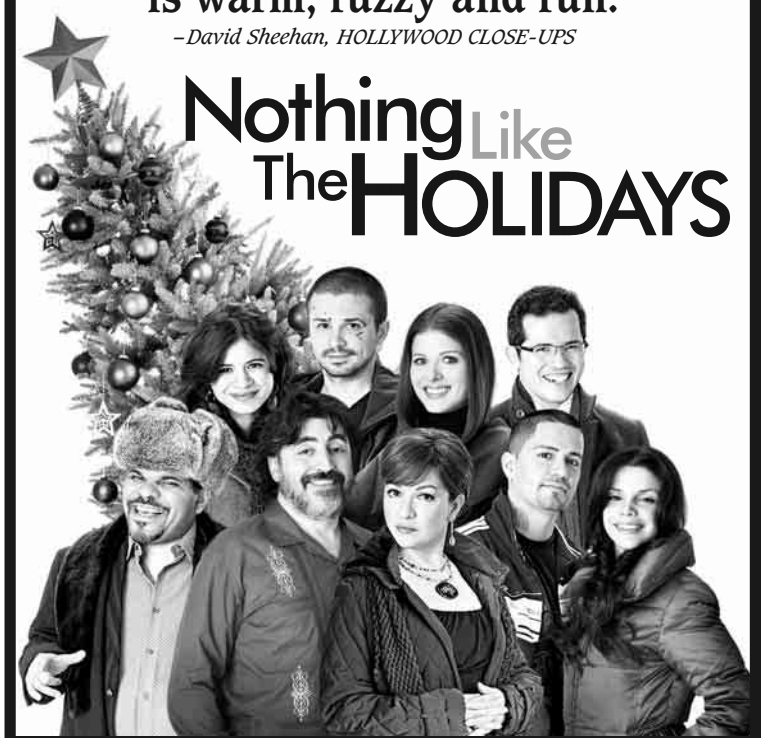

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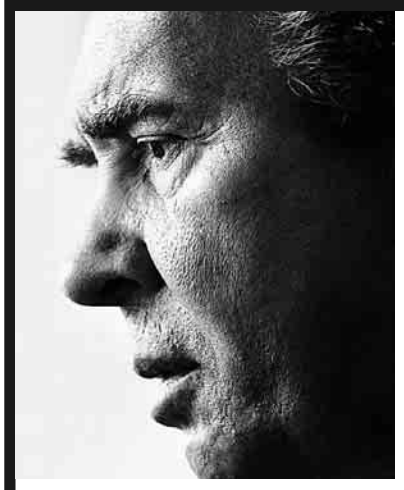

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order to redeem himself and reclaim his sweetie (Elizabeth Banks), and Wheeler and Ronnie fill in the subplot. (NT)

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R, 107 minutes) It's hard to say exactly when my resistance broke down while watching the almost entirely joyless sequel to the 2004 film adaptation of the Marvel Comics series about tortured vigilante Frank Castle (Ray Stevenson, replacing an apparently shamefaced Tom Jane). Could it have been when Frank, who goes by the more superheroic moniker the Punisher, shoves a pencil several inches up his own nostril to loudly wrench a piece of cartilage back into alignment after suffering a broken nose while meting out one of his trademark bloodbaths? No, that happens way too early. How about when one of the villains (Dominic West) is thrown into a machine that grinds recycled glass? Nah, too predictable. Frank should have known that it would only turn the bad guy into a badly scarred master criminal bent on revenge. (MO)

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R, 121 minutes) The resourceful, unerringly grounded title character is Jamal Malik Dev Patel), a lanky kid from the Mumbai slums whom we meet just after he wins 10 million rupees on India's own version of the "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" TV show. Accused of cheating, Jamal is taken into custody by the Mumbai police, and he proceeds to tell them his story, a tale of one boy's decidedly unsentimental education by way of poverty, tribal strife, abandonment, exploitation, criminal gangs and star-crossed love. Director Danny Boyle has clearly found inspiration in the geography and textures of modern-day India. (AH)

JOHN P. JOHNSON/WARNER BROS.

Vince Vaughn does his best "I don't like kids" face in "Four Christmases."

ZACK AND MIRI MAKE A PORNO (R, 102 minutes) You'll look at this story of a bone-cold winter in Pittsburgh, where a schlub named Zack (Seth Rogen) has a lifelong babe of a friend and roommate named Miri (Elizabeth Banks), and wonder why this nice girl isn't somewhere else. Times are hard, and the electricity gets cut off at home. So, Miri agrees to have sex on tape with Zack to gin up some cash. It won't take much to recognize that Rogen is reprising his standard role: a nonthreatening loser with a good heart. Despite the crude humor, you will laugh out loud, perhaps because everyone seems to be having so much fun. (NT)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S **JOHN ANDERSON, ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER, MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN** AND **NEELY TUCKER**. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE **WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT.**

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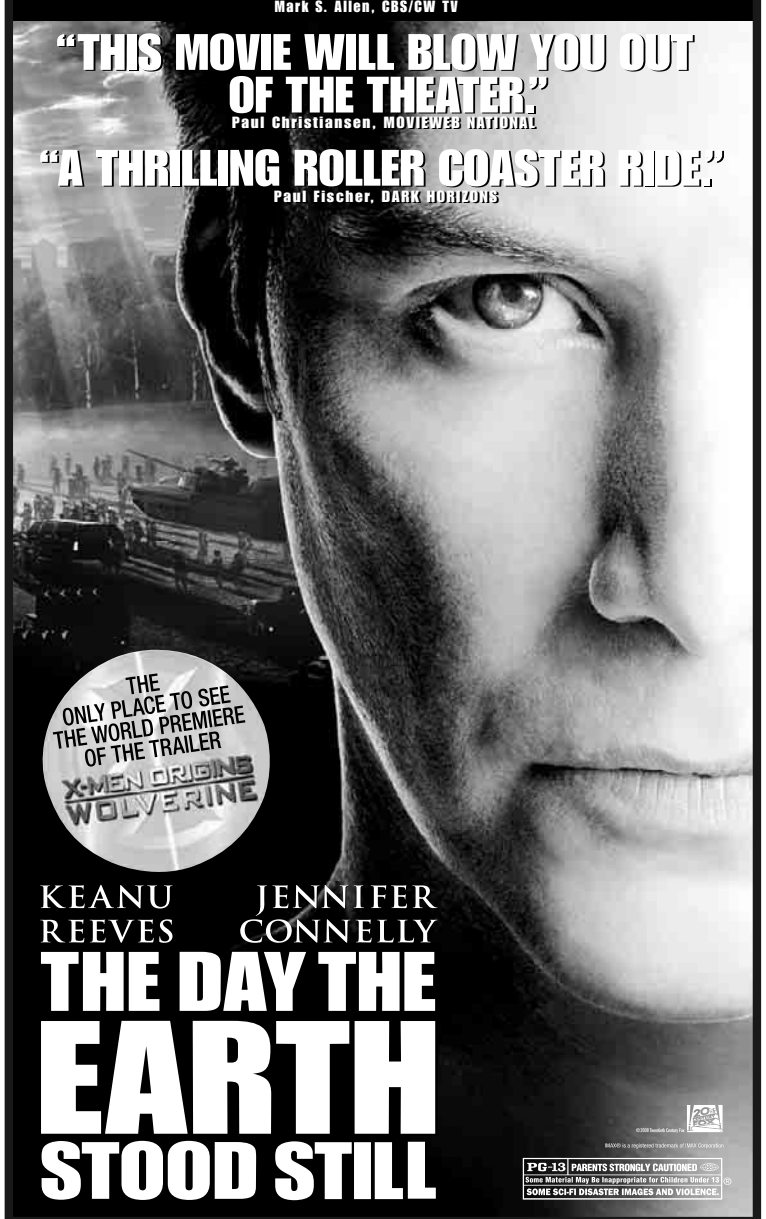

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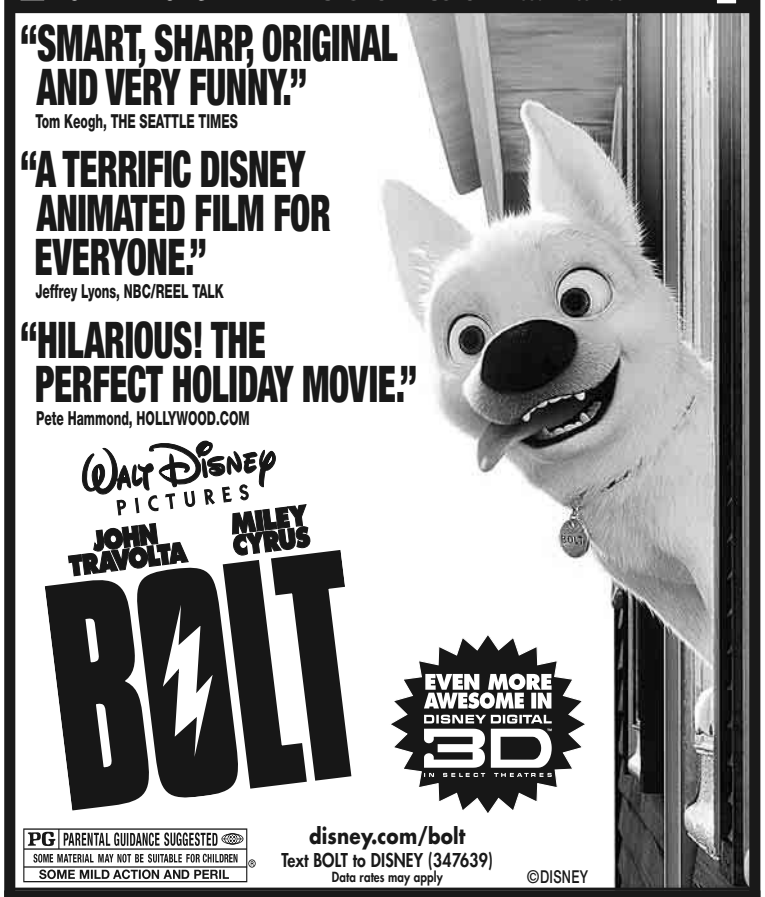

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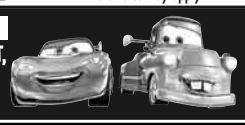

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SEEKING ANSWERS ON THE TOWN

Q When did you last lie or get lied to?

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1. "I said, 'Yes, I do love you,'" Shaun McAdams. **2. "I feigned interest in a conversation,"** John Hutchinson. **3. "I went to work today, so I'm sure I lied,"** Carrie Spudich, right, with Amy Zahi. **4. "My ex-girlfriend was not the person she said she was,"** Ramone Alonso. **5. "My ex-boyfriend lied about having a girl in the house for six months,"** Christina Burton, right, with Stevie Hooper. **6. "I was lied to about sex,"** James Albertson. PHOTOS BY ROBYN MINCHER AND HOLLY MORRIS

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3 All Cleared Up

In 1897, a little girl named Virginia wrote a letter to the New York Sun asking the editor whether Santa Claus existed. In case you're unsure of how Francis P. Church replied, his editorial is called "Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus." Actor Terrence Currier will read it aloud in the Knight TV Studio at the Newseum. F.Z.

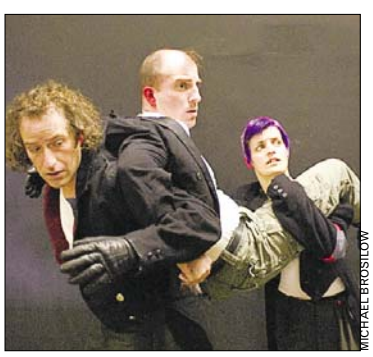
➜ *Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; Sat., 2:30 p.m., $13-$20 museum admission; 888-639-7386. (Archives)*

PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

2 Sew Crafty

Buy a unique gift this season at Craft Mutiny Holiday's Trunk Show. The rebel group of local artists hosting the event will be displaying funky goods you won't find anywhere else. HANNAH KIM

➜ *Design Within Reach, 3307 Cady's Alley NW; Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m., free.*



MICHAEL BROSILOW

4 Send in the Clowns

While they may not be wearing bright red noses or jumbo shoes, the members in "500 Clown and the Elephant Deal" will keep you laughing with slapstick and goofy humor. The highly charged play explore themes of identity and politics. F.Z.

➜ *Clarice Performing Arts Center, Route 193 and Stadium Drive, College Park; various times, through Sun., $35; 301-405-2787. (College Park)*

5 Quirky Cabaret

Dito van Reigersberg is a respected figure in the Philadelphia theater community. But van Reigersberg has a quirky alter ego: the drag queen of Philly's Cabaret, Martha Graham Cracker. Martha is a female persona he created while studying at the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance. Van Reigersberg will bring Martha, along with her dazzling wardrobe and voice, to the GALA Hispanic Theatre. THOMAS FLOYD

➜ *GALA Hispanic Theatre, 3333 14th St. NW; Fri. and Sat., 8 p.m. & 9 p.m., $20-25; 800-494-8947. (Columbia Heights)*

top stops WEEKEND

1 He's Everybody's Buddy

Christmas is coming, and if you're excited — rather than scoffing every time you see yet another carefully arranged light display in somebody's yard — you might be jonesing for some Christmas movie. EatBar is screening "Elf" this Sunday in one of its not-only-is-the-movie-free-but-here-are-some-gratis-snacks-too nights. F.Z.

➜ *EatBar, 2761 Washington Blvd., Arlington; Sun., 8 p.m., free; 703-778-9951.*

COMPILED BY Express' Karmah Elmusa and Fiona Zublin. Read more of their picks every day — and for what's coming up this weekend — at **Expressnightout.com/topstops.**

dine&dash

KRISTEN ROSENBERG

'Tis the Season to Be Pepperminty

IF PETER PIPER PICKED a peck of peppermint pastries, how many pecks of peppermint pastries did Peter Piper pick? More than those pickled peppers, that's for sure. With Christmas around the corner, peppermint is popping up all across town. Here are some peppermint pleasures to please people's palates:

Sticky Fingers Bakery (1370 Park Road NW; 202-299-9700) has peppermint brownies glazed with crushed peppermint candy for $3, and they're 100 percent vegan and cholesterol-free.

Georgetown Cupcake's (1209 Potomac St. NW; 202-333-8448) seasonal flavors this month include chocolate peppermint cupcakes with crushed peppermint candy topped with Christmas trees. These designer cupcakes at $2.75 are too pretty to pass up.

Worried about calories? Robeks (1707 L St. NW; 202-223-8805) has added a new chocolate peppermint smoothie for a limited time only. Made with nonfat yogurt, this treat at $4.61 and up and will be the perfect way to transition to new year's resolutions to keep the pounds off.

If you're finding the weather outside frightful, get ye a Peppermint Paddy cocktail. Todd Thrasher, wine connoisseur and manager at Restaurant Eve (110 South Pitt St., Alexandria; 703-706-0450), came up with the ski trip-inspired drink. The white hot chocolate drink is made with peppermint schnapps and rum — it's worth the $11. HANNAH KIM

@ Dine & Dash has more on local eats at **Expressnightout.com/dine**

Television

GOOD FIRST IMPRESSIONS: "In Treatment," starring Gabriel Byrne, and HBO's "True Blood" became the sole freshmen shows to be nominated for Outstanding Series awards by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association on Thursday.

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

A JOLLY, HAPPY SOUL

Jimmy Durante narrates **FROSTY THE SNOWMAN** (8 p.m., CBS, Fri.).

FEW AND FAR BETWEEN

Tyler James Williams, the young title star of "Everybody Hates Chris," hosts the hour-long **FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS** (9 p.m., CW, Fri.), honoring the dwindling number of network shows that parents and children can watch together without unbearable discomfort.

BEST YEAR EVER — KIND OF

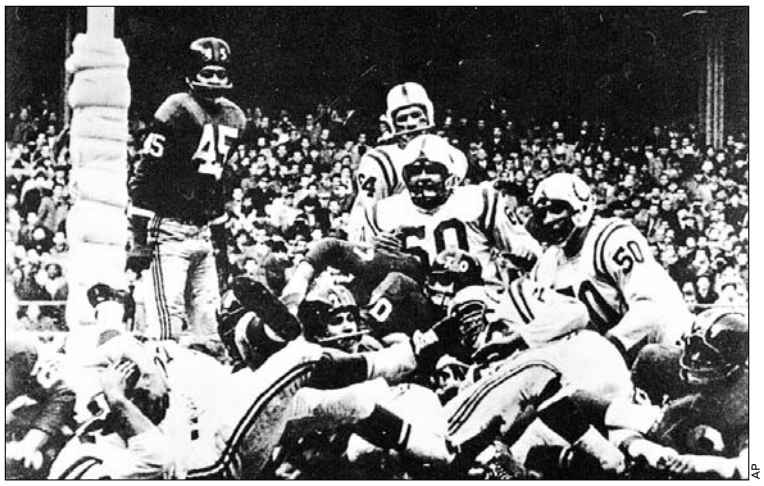
With less than three weeks left before the new year, the snarky clip series **BEST WEEK EVER** (9 p.m., VH1, Fri.) looks back at 2008.

FATHER CLAY

TRUE HOLLYWOOD STORY (9 p.m., E!, Fri.) profiles Clay Aiken.

SHE LOVES HIM — OR NOT

Molly mulls her feelings for Zach on the season finale of **THE STARTER WIFE** (10 p.m., USA, Fri.).



AP

The Baltimore Colts and the New York Giants in "The Greatest Game Ever Played."

'DOUBT' STAR

Meryl Streep and Jeff Altman appear on **LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN** (11:35 p.m., CBS, Fri.).

THAT'S SAYING SOMETHING

The two-hour special **THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED** (9 p.m., ESPN, Sat.) lives up to the hype. A celebration of the 1958 NFL championship game between the New York Giants and Baltimore Colts, "Greatest" offers a play-by-play glance at the game, along with commentary from surviving players.

CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

Jimmy Stewart stars in the 1946 Frank Capra holiday favorite **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE** (9 p.m., NBC, Sat.).

HOUSE AND THE RAP STAR

Hugh Laurie hosts **SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE** (11:30 p.m., NBC, Sat.), featuring musical guest Kanye West.

SAD, HAPPY, SAD

Scheduled on **60 MINUTES** (7 p.m., CBS, Sun.): the enduring, painfully relevant mortgage mess; Barney Frank; and a college football coach who takes on gang violence.

HER LIFE IS SO HARD

Miley feels too tall on **HANNAH MONTANA** (8 p.m., Disney, Sun.).

OLD-SCHOOL LAUGHS

Director Mel Brooks spoofs the "Star Wars" franchise in the 1987 parody **SPACEBALLS** (8 p.m., CW, Sun.).

NBC

'Tis the season to watch "It's a Wonderful Life," which is on NBC Saturday.

ANCIENT PETA TARGET

ANIMAL GLADIATORS (9 p.m., Animal Planet, Sun.) recalls the role of species in the cruel spectacles of ancient Rome.

IT'S STILL ON?

A winner emerges on **SURVIVOR** (8 p.m., CBS, Sun.), followed by an hour-long retrospective (10 p.m.). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1200 1230 120 240) 330 415 520 630 715 800 915 1000 1040 1155 1230
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1140 205) 435 700 930 1210
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 225) 500 740 1020 1235
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (1240) 315 545 815 1045
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (1210 235) 505 730 1005 1225
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1145) 310 640 1015
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1250) 325 535 750 1010 1220
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (115) 400 645 950
BOLT 3D -$2.50 CHARGE FOR 3D (PG) ★ (1150 210 430) 650 910
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1220 300) 540 810 1035 1240
OC & DA: ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 PM)
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (245) 515 755 1025
RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) - ID REQ'D (100) 350 655 940

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12
671 N Glebe Rd 800-FANDANGO 377#

Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13) (130 410) 700 940
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (230 515) 800 1040
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (200 300 430 530) 650 750 910 1010
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (250 350) 630 730 1010
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (120 420) 720 1020
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (115 215 400 500) 640 740 930 1030
THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG-13) (205 435) 710 950
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (150 440) 715 1000
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (140 405) 655 920

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#

Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (225 500) 750 1030
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (120 200 240 400 440 520) 640 720 800 920 1000 1040 1200
DELGO (PG) (130 355) 630 900
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (110 150 410 450) 650 730 940 1020 1150
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (245 530) 810 1055
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (210 250 430 510) 700 740 930 1010
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (1250 325) 600 840 1120
OC & DA: AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (315 PM)
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) 655 PM 1035 PM
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (310) 610 910 1140
BOLT 3D -$2.50 CHARGE FOR 3D (PG) ★ (115 PM 345 PM) 620 PM
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (135 420) 710 950
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D 835 PM 1110 PM
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (100 PM 335 PM) 610 PM

KINGSTOWNE STADIUM 16
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center 703-822-4956

Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1200 1245 235 320 505) 615 800 850 1035
RW & DA: THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (135 420) 700 940
DELGO (PG) (1235 255) 645 935
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1215 245 515) 745 1020
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1255 335) 655 950
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (100 340) 750 1025
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1200 105 220 330 435) 625 735 900 955
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (1240 310) 650 920
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1230 PM 405 PM) 815 PM
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (115 410) 720 1015
BOLT (PG) (1205 225 445) 710 930
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (120 355) 730 1010
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (125 350) 805 1030
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (1155 205 425) 640 905

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20
45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1135 1210 1250 130 210 250 330 410 450 530) 610 650 730 810 850 930 1010
DELGO (PG) (1140 200 440) 710 925
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1200 230 500) 725 955
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 310) 625 900
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (1155 235 520) 755 1025
OC & DA: AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1130 AM)
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1220 115 305 350 525) 700 750 920 1020
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (100 255 430) 620 800 950
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (135 400) 715 945
BOLT (PG) (110 345) 640 910
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1235 120 325 415) 630 720 940 1030
BOLT 3D -$2.50 CHARGE FOR 3D (PG) ★ (1215 245 510) 740 1010
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1150 1255 225 335 505) 645 745 915 1015
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (1240 315) 615 855

FOX STADIUM 16
22875 Crawford Plz, Asburn, VA 703-957-1035

Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (130 215 400 445) 630 715 900 945
RW: NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (240 510) 745 1015
RW & DA: THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (300 530) 800 1030
DELGO (PG) (220 440) 720 950
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (210 450) 740 1025
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (115 245 345 500) 615 730 830 1000
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (150 420) 645 910
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (310 PM) 640 PM 1010 PM
BOLT (PG) (100 200 330 430) 710 940
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (110 410) 600 700 850 1005
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (140 415) 650 930
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (250 520) 750 1020
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (120 340) 620 840

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10
4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (130 245 415 515) 700 745 930 1015
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL - DP (PG-13) ★ (1255 325) 600 830 1055
DELGO (PG) (225 445) 705 920
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (150 430) 725 1000
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (140 420) 740 1020
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (230 450) 720 945
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (145 435) 735 1030
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (235 510) 750 1025
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (240 455) 715 935

MANASSAS STADIUM 14
11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

Adv. Tix on Sale BEDTIME STORIES
Adv. Tix on Sale YES MAN
Adv. Tix on Sale SEVEN POUNDS
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1200 1245 130 245 345 430 515) 645 730 815 915 1000 1045
DELGO (PG) (1145 200 445) 700 930
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (115 415) 715 1015
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 410) 650 940
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D (150 420) 720 1010
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) (215 530) 800 1040
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1120 250) 620 945
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1130 230 500) 745 1030
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1215 315) 615 900
BOLT 3D -$2.50 CHARGE FOR 3D (PG) ★ (100 330) 600 830
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1230 350) 710 950
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (145 400) 630 845

Times For 12/12 Bargain Matinees In ( ) OC= Open Captioned RW=RWC Available DA= Descriptive Audio Available DP= Digital Projection * Pass/Discount Ticket Restrictions Apply © 2008 www.REGmovies.com

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AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22
Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria
703-998-4AMC

IMAX THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)
(11:30 @ $9), 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10, 12:35

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) (10:00 @ $8), 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) ✓ (10:10, 10:40 @ $6), 12:50, 1:20, 3:40, 4:10, 6:30, 7:00, 9:10, 9:50, 11:40
DELGO (PG) (10:05 @ $6), 12:20, 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 12:00, 12:40, 2:30, 3:10, 5:05, 5:45, 7:40, 8:20, 10:15, 11:00, 12:20
AUSTRALIA (PG13) (11:20 @ $6), 12:30, 2:50, 4:00, 6:40, 7:30, 10:10, 11:05
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) (11:00 @ $6), 12:15, 1:15, 2:40, 3:40, 5:00, 5:55, 7:15, 8:15, 9:35, 10:35, 12:00
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 12:45, 3:20, 5:50, 8:25, 10:50
BOLT (PG) (11:50 @ $6), 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30
TWILIGHT (PG13) (10:15, 11:15 @ $6), 1:05, 2:05, 3:55, 4:55, 6:45, 7:45, 9:35, 10:35
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) (11:55 @ $6), 12:35, 2:45, 3:15, 5:20, 5:50, 7:55, 8:35, 10:30, 11:10
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) (10:25 @ $6), 12:40, 3:00, 5:25, 7:45, 10:05
ROLE MODELS (R) (10:30 @ $6), 1:00, 3:30, 5:55, 8:25, 10:55

AMC SELECT

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) (10:00 @ $6), 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) (11:25 @ $6), 12:05, 2:00, 2:40, 4:35, 5:15, 7:10, 7:50, 9:40, 10:20, 12:15
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) CC (11:25 @ $6), 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40, 12:15

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14
10300 Patuxent Parkway
1 (888) AMC-4FUN

IMAX THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)
(10:30 @ $9), 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) (10:20 @ $8), 12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:45

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) (11:50 @ $6), 2:40, 5:30, 8:20, 11:10
DELGO (PG) (10:15 @ $6), 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:20, 9:55
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 7:10, 10:00
AUSTRALIA (PG13) (11:35 @ $6), 3:05, 6:55, 10:25
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) DS CC (10:25 @ $6), 12:40, 3:00, 5:25, 7:45, 10:20
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) (11:55 @ $6), 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
BOLT (PG) (11:45 @ $6), 2:15, 4:40
TWILIGHT (PG13) (10:40 @ $6), 1:30, 4:20, 7:35, 10:50
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) (11:30 @ $6), 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) (11:25 @ $6), 1:55, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30
ROLE MODELS (R) (11:40 @ $6), 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:05

AMC SELECT

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) (11:20 @ $6), 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) (11:00 @ $6), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14
3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) 12:25, 1:45, 3:00, 4:20, 5:35, 7:00, 8:15, 9:40, 10:55
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) CC 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 12:00, 5:05, 10:10
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 12:00, 3:15, 6:50, 10:25
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) 1:00, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:30
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 2:35, 7:35
TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:25, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
ROLE MODELS (R) 12:05, 2:25, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50

AMC SELECT

FROST/NIXON (R) 12:40, 1:55, 3:35, 4:50, 6:30, 7:45, 9:30, 10:45
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 1:05, 2:20, 3:55, 5:10, 6:45, 8:00, 9:35, 10:50
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

IMAX THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13) ✓
(10:00 @ $9), 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) (11:20 @ $8), 1:55, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40, 12:05

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) ✓ (10:30, 11:10 @ $6), 1:20, 2:00, 4:10, 4:50, 7:00, 7:40, 9:50, 10:30
DELGO (PG) (11:45 @ $6), 2:10, 4:35, 7:05, 9:20
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) ✓ 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35
AUSTRALIA (PG13) (10:00 @ $6), 1:30, 5:00, 8:30
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) (10:10 @ $6), 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) DS CC (11:25 @ $6), 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) (11:00 @ $6), 1:35, 4:20, 6:50, 7:50, 9:25, 10:25, 11:50
BOLT (PG) 12:05, 2:45, 5:20
TWILIGHT (PG13) (10:05, 10:55 @ $6), 12:55, 1:50, 3:45, 4:40, 6:35, 7:30, 9:30, 10:20, 11:55
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) (11:40 @ $6), 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 12:10, 2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35
ROLE MODELS (R) 12:20, 2:55, 5:25, 8:00, 10:40

AMC SELECT

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) ✓ (11:05 @ $6), 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 9:45, 12:10
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) ✓ (11:30 @ $6), 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8
Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) ✓ 12:05, 1:50, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:20, 10:40
DELGO (PG) 1:10, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:10
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 12:00, 5:10, 10:30
BOLT (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10

AMC SELECT

MILK (R) ✓ 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) ✓ 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
CHANGELING (R) 2:10, 7:30
RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12
800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) (10:45 @ $6), 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) (11:45 @ $6), 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) CC (11:45 @ $6), 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25
BOLT (PG) 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45
TWILIGHT (PG13) (10:40 @ $6), 1:25, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) (11:55 @ $6), 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) (11:40 @ $6), 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
SOUL MEN (R) 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10

AMC SELECT

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) (11:50 @ $6), 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) (11:15 @ $6), 12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:15, 5:15, 6:45, 7:45, 9:15, 10:15

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG13) 2:20, 7:40
I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG13) 1:35, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40

AMC SELECT

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 1:45, 3:15, 4:30, 5:55, 7:20, 8:45, 10:00
MILK (R) ✓ 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00
HAPPY-GO-LUCKY (R) 4:35, 9:55
RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) 1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50

LOEWS UPTOWN 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16
7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) (10:20 @ $8), 12:45, 3:15, 5:50, 8:15, 10:35

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) ✓ (9:30, 10:30, 11:25 @ $6), 12:20, 1:20, 2:15, 3:10, 4:10, 5:05, 6:10, 7:00, 8:05, 9:00, 9:50, 10:45, 11:45, 12:30
DELGO (PG) (9:35 @ $6), 12:05, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30, 11:40
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) ✓ (9:40 @ $6), 12:15, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:40
AUSTRALIA (PG13) (9:10 @ $6), 12:35, 4:00, 7:30, 10:55
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) (9:05, 10:05, 11:20 @ $6), 12:25, 1:45, 2:45, 4:10, 5:25, 6:35, 7:50, 8:50, 10:15, 12:40
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) (9:20 @ $6), 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:25, 12:45
BOLT (PG) (9:15, 11:35 @ $6), 2:00
TWILIGHT (PG13) (10:35 @ $6), 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05, 11:00, 12:50
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 4:25, 7:05, 9:45, 12:20
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) DS CC (9:25 @ $6), 12:10, 3:00, 5:45, 8:30, 11:15
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) (9:00, 11:10 @ $6), 1:30, 4:05, 6:20, 8:35, 10:50

AMC SELECT

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) ✓ (9:15 @ $6), 12:00, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00, 12:35
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) ✓ (11:15 @ $6), 1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55, 12:25

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE
Jenifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 5:15, 10:25
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 2:30, 8:00
BOLT (PG) 1:00, 3:45, 6:50, 9:25
TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:10, 4:15, 7:30, 10:20
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18
9811 Washingtonian Boulevard
301-948-0906

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) (9:35 @ $8), 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40, 12:00

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) ✓ (9:30, 10:30, 11:30 @ $6), 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:00, 4:05, 5:15, 6:00, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:45, 10:30, 11:15, 12:20
DELGO (PG) (10:10 @ $6), 12:35, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 9:55, 12:15
THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG13) (9:40 @ $6), 12:10, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50, 12:10
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) ✓ (9:40 @ $6), 12:35, 3:10, 5:40, 8:25, 10:50
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 12:30, 4:00, 7:25, 10:55
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) (9:45, 11:10 @ $6), 12:00, 1:25, 2:15, 3:40, 4:30, 5:55, 7:05, 8:15, 9:25, 10:35, 11:45
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) (10:00 @ $6), 12:40, 3:05, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25
BOLT (PG) (10:55 @ $6), 1:10, 3:30
TWILIGHT (PG13) (10:40 @ $6), 1:30, 4:15, 5:50, 7:10, 8:35, 10:10, 11:20
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) (11:25 @ $6), 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:05
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) (9:50 @ $6), 12:25, 2:35, 4:55, 7:20, 9:35, 11:50
ROLE MODELS (R) (9:50 @ $6), 12:20, 2:50, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15

AMC SELECT

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) ✓ (10:15 @ $6), 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:20, 10:45
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) ✓ (11:35 @ $6), 2:35, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) CC ✓ (11:35 @ $6), 2:35, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5
North Bethesda
1-800-FANDANGO #741

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) 2:05, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 3:00, 6:45, 10:25
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 9:45
BOLT (PG) 2:15, 4:45, 7:05, 9:35
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 2:10, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00

Times for Friday, December 12, 2008

✓-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupons — CC - Closed Captioning · DS - Descriptive Video Service

express movie showtimes

MARYLAND

ACADEMY STADIUM THEATRES at Beltway Plaza
www.Academy8theaters.com
Beltway Exit 23, W. on Greenbelt Rd.
301-220-1155
(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket
Friday-Thursday: Shows starting between 12 noon- 5 pm:
Adults $6.50, Child $6.00
Saturday: ALL SHOWS STARTING BEFORE 12 NOON ARE $5.00

LOWEST PRICES IN THE METRO AREA! NEW STADIUM SEATING/FREE PARKING

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)
(!) 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:35
DELGO (PG)
(!) 11:30, 1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13)
(!) 11:20, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
CADILLACS RECORDS (R)
(!) 11:45, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:25
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13)
12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:35
TWILIGHT (PG-13)
11:50, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:25
BOLT (PG)
11:20, 2:00, 4:10, 7:00, 9:20
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG)
11:30, 2:00
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R)
4:30, 6:50, 9:30

LANDMARK'S
BETHESDA ROW
7235 Woodmont Ave • (301) 652-7273
Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #805
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM
RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R)
1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
DOUBT (PG-13)
1:15, 2:15, 3:45, 4:45, 6:15, 7:15, 8:45, 9:45
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
1:00, 2:00, 3:40, 4:40, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:10
MILK (R)
12:15, 1:10, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:50, 9:50
THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG-13)
4:15, 10:15
A CHRISTMAS TALE (NR)
1:05, 7:05

MONTGOMERY CINEMA & DRAFTHOUSE
www.MontgomeryDrafthouse.com
11006 Veirs Mill Rd, Wheaton 301-949-9200
21+ or with Parent
Beer, Wine, Food & Movies
Regular $9.25 / Matinee $6
Happy Hour Films Mon - Thurs Only $3
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) 5:00, 7:20, 9:45
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13)
5:20, 7:45, 9:45
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13)
5:10, 7:40, 9:50
BOLT (PG) 5:00, 7:20
TWILIGHT (PG-13) 7:10PM
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)
5:00, 7:30, 9:50

MARLOW 6 THEATRES
Temple Hills, Md. 301-316-1031
BOLT (PG)
12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:35, 10:40
DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)
11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 10:50
DELGO (PG)
12:30, 2:35, 4:30, 6:30, 8:25, 10:25
CADILLAC RECORDS (R)
11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45
MADAGASCAR 2 (PG)
12:10, 2:10, 4:05, 6:05
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R)
8:00, 10:10
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13)
11:40, 3:50, 8:10
SOUL MEN (R)
1:40, 5:55, 10:15

P&G OLD GREENBELT
301-474-9744
40 ft. Screen
At intersection of Crescent & Southway
All shows before 6:00pm are $6.00
Visit us at: **pandgtheatres.com**
MILK (R)
4:50, 7:30, 9:55

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY
7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth 301-767-9555
Visit us at: **pandgtheatres.com**
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:15
TWILIGHT (PG-13)
2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40

VIRGINIA

CINEMA ARTS THEATRE
9650 Main St., Fairfax 703-978-6991
www.cinemaartstheatre.com
MILK (R)
9:50,10:15, 12:20, 1:15, 3:15, 4:00, 7:20, 7:40, 9:50, 10:05
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
9:45,10:00, 12:10, 12:30, 2:35, 4:30, 5:05, 7:30, 7:50, 9:45, 10:10
AUSTRALIA (PG-13)
9:40, 1:00, 4:15, 8:00
I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG-13)
9:55, 2:25, 7:10
HAPPY-GO-LUCKY (R)
12:05, 4:50, 9:25

PHOENIX THEATRES WORLDGATE 9
Exit 10, Dulles Access Toll Road
Centreville Rd., Herndon 703-318-9290
Bargain Matinees Daily before 6
Advance Ticketing Available at
www.PhoenixTheatres.com
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10
DELGO (PG)
11:35, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13)
11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
AUSTRALIA (PG-13)
11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00
BOLT (PG)
11:45, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30
TWILIGHT (PG-13)
12:25, 4:00, 6:50, 9:35
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG)
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40
VINAYAKUDU (NR)
12:35, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R)
9:55

ALEXANDRIA
www.oldtowntheater.com
815 1/2 King Street 703-683-8888
Fine Dining Beer & Wine
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13)
4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13)
3:30, 5:30, 7:40, 9:30

ARLINGTON CINEMA 'N' DRAFTHOUSE
www.ArlingtonDrafthouse.com
2903 Columbia Pike 703-486-2345
21+ or with Parent
Beer, Wine, Food & Movies
Movie Admission only $5.50
EAGLE EYE (PG-13) 7:15 PM
BURN AFTER READING (R) 9:50 PM
WALL-E (G) SAT 1:00 PM

DISTRICT

LANDMARK'S
E street CINEMA
E St. at 11th St. NW • (202) 452-7672
Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #781
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM
DOUBT (PG-13)
12:45, 2:15, 3:15, 4:45, 5:45, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45, 11:00
AZUR & ASMAR (PG)
1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50
LABYRINTH (PG)
12:00 AM
MILK (R)
12:30, 1:45, 3:30, 4:45, 6:30, 7:45, 9:30, 10:45
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
2:00, 3:45, 5:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:50
WERE THE WORLD MINE (NR)
1:15, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00, 11:50
SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK (R)
1:00, 7:00

PHOENIX THEATRES UNION STATION 9
Metro's Red Line
202-842-4455
Bargain Matinees Daily Before 4
Advance Ticketing Available at
www.PhoenixTheatres.com

*** No Passes**
***THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)**
11:45, 3:20, 4:40, 7:30, 9:50
***DELGO (PG)**
11:40, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:20
***RAB NE BANA DI JODI (NR)**
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
***CADILLAC RECORDS (R)**
11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 9:40
***PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R)**
7:35, 10:00
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13)
12:10, 2:25, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55
AUSTRALIA (PG-13)
11:30, 3:00, 6:15, 9:35
BOLT (PG)
11:55, 2:10, 4:25, 7:15, 9:30
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)
11:50, 2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 9:45
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG)
12:05, 2:15, 4:30

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Green Door is a community program that prepares women and men with mental illnesses to work and live independently. We are hiring several individuals to work with adults that have serious mental illness by visiting them in the community and teaching them the skills necessary to help them live as independently as possible.

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•Teaching Cooking, Cleaning, and Budgeting Skills
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•Teaching clients how to use public transportation
•Providing support during crisis situations

This is an exceptionally rewarding position that positively impacts the lives of others. Full time openings only. Day, evening and weekend shifts available. **$25-30K + bonuses and benefits.**

Qualifications:
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To Apply:
Call 202-464-9200, ext. 221, fax resume to 202-446 2184 or email resume to resume@greendoor.org

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MD, 3pm-11pm, Mon-Sun. Call 301-986-9271.

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December 11th and 13th, 2008

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To interview in person – Come to the job fair on 12/11/08 between 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm., or on 12/13/08 between 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Bring a cover letter and resume. Job fair will be held at Covance, 9801 Washingtonian Blvd., 9th Floor in Gaithersburg. Free parking and refreshments. Detailed directions available at http://apply-healthecon. covance.com/ or by phone 240/632-3833. **TO APPLY ONLINE** – Web:
www.covance.com/careers (Job #13575)

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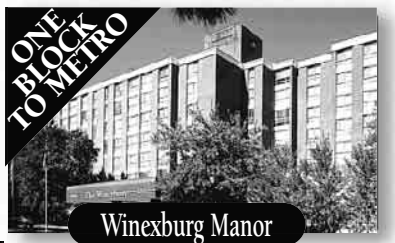

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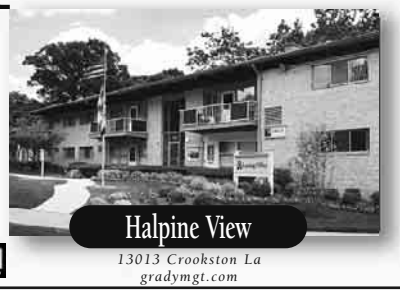

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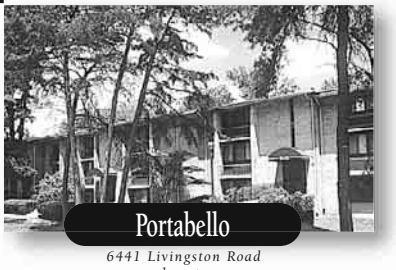

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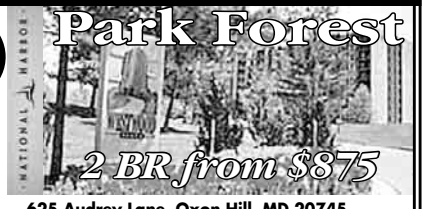

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BMW 2000 328 — i 4dr. Garaged, auto, lthr, sunroof, premium pkg, htd seats, good cond 45k mi, Gray int, $10,950 obo. 202-302-0575.

Ford 2002 Explorer — Limited 4X4, V8, Excellent cond, 80k mi, Auto everything, 1 owner, $8300 obo, 571-236-2746

Ford 2000 Focus-4dr 5-spd manual red looks & runs great. 28 MPG MD inspected. Must See! $2999. 301-792-3932

FORD 1996 Explorer. auto. 4x4. 4dr. p/w. p/seats. 120K miles. Clean. Black. $1500. Call 202-744-7187

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Plymouth 1969 Valiant — $5500 obo, Orig stock parts, excellent cond, 56k mi, Black int, Yellow ext, 4 dr, Cass, Automatic, 301-613-7085

Toyota 2003 Camry — LE, $8,650 obo, Excel cond, 90k mi only, Leather int, Gray ext, 4 dr, very well maintained, automatic. Call Ben 413-221-5672.

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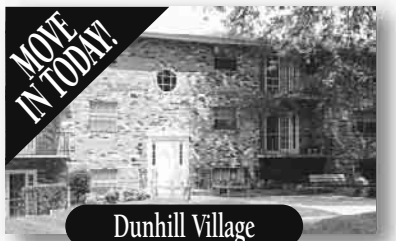

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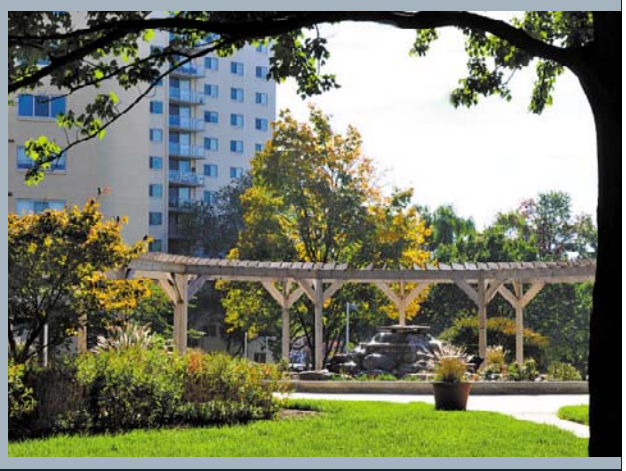

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Look out

TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

INSIDE

Hartnett wins U.K. libel case | 42

Blog Log: Pete Wentz and wife don't sizzle | 40

Discussions: Fisher on inauguration details | 40

PHOTOS BY RAY KUGLER/AP

LONG TRADITION: Hanukkah gift-giving began hundreds of years ago, when children were given coins to play dreidel games.

8 Nights of Variety

Holidays

Themed Hanukkah gifts can create a fun new way to celebrate

Socks. Board games. Underwear. Movie tickets. Musical toothbrushes?

They're probably not the big presents most kids say they want for Hanukkah. But with eight nights to celebrate, parents, especially these days, often don't want to indulge their children with a standout gift each night. And they want the holiday to be about more than a pile of presents.

Try the Hanukkah theme night, an easy, enjoyable and often inexpensive way to give gifts, with each child (and lucky adult) getting the same kind of present like books, pajamas or a video game. Themed gifts can tame sibling rivalry, and when they are enjoyed together on the evening they're given, the celebration becomes more meaningful, parents say.

> "The themes tend to work out a lot better in terms of teaching a lesson."
>
> **ANDREW BORISLOW**, PARENT

"It helps because if it's movie night, we know we're watching movies. If it's book night, I know we're snuggling in bed that night reading the book," says Cindy Edelstein, 44, of Pelham, N.Y., whose daughter is 11. "It takes the present to a whole evening experience."

Traditionally, Hanukkah gift-giving did not approach the level of present exchanges associated with Christmas. Hanukkah, though widely observed by American Jews, is less significant under Jewish law than several other holidays. It commemorates the miracle of a one-day supply of oil burning for eight days at the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple around 164 B.C.

The custom of a Hanukkah gift began hundreds of years ago as gelt, or money. Children were given coins to play dreidel, buy candy and to give as tzedakah, a contribution to those less fortunate, said Rabbi Joel Meyers, a leader of the Rabbinical Assembly, which represents rabbis in the Conservative Jewish movement.

It was in the last century, in this country, that gift giving evolved into what it is today, as Jews were confronted with the big celebrations for Christmas, he said. Some families these days give a gift only on the first night of Hanukkah, others on all eight.

Simple theme nights can feature gifts of winter staples like warm socks, hats and gloves. More elaborate nights may include current kid favorites like American Girl dolls, "Hannah Montana" toys and Nintendo Wii games and accessories.

"The themes tend to work out a lot better in terms of teaching a lesson or making them more appreciative of what they're getting," said Andrew Borislow, of Lower Gwynedd, Pa., who gave his 10-year-old twin sons a "Planet Earth" DVD game last year on Green Night.

In addition to creating family time, low-cost ideas like hot chocolate and personalized mugs teach children that not every night can be Big Present Night.

In Chicago, Lisa Curran has a night devoted to a family gift, like a vacation, and a pajama party, when her children — a 3-year-old daughter and 6-month-old son — will get new PJs, stuffed animals and a DVD to watch together. She also sets aside nights for gifts from relatives.

Theme nights give parents an easy and inexpensive way to celebrate Hanukkah.

"It sets an expectation that she's not getting eight gifts from every single person," Curran says of her daughter. "She knows she's not getting toys every night, not six toys every night."

She began theme nights with her daughter's first Hanukkah, concerned that her family might go overboard for the first grandchild. "We needed some kind of strategy to sort of keep the holiday under control so it wouldn't be a general free-for-all," says Curran, 41.

Mary Salke-Roth, 44, of Irvington, N.Y., keeps up her mother's tradition of toothbrush night with her 7-year-old twins, a boy and a girl, who loved the musical ones they got last year. She also does underwear night, book night and music night. And there's always one big present, which this year for each child will be Heelys, shoes with a detachable wheel.

"We've been working on appreciating how much we have," says Salke-Roth. "It's important that they know that the things we take for granted every day are valuable and thus are good presents." LISA A. FLAM (AP)

Look out Online

express nightout >> EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

MUSIC

Yule Tidings

Sure, Andy Williams looks great for 147. But for Aimee Mann — his unlikely successor as the Voice of Christmas — her annual Xmas gigs are not all sugarplums. She plays two sold-out shows next week at the Birchmere, and Christopher Correa spoke to Mann about her third yule tour. | COMING UP

VIDEO GAMES

Living Dead

The zombie apocalypse is here again. In "Left 4 Dead," the world is a wasteland overrun with hordes of the undead, leaving you with a simple goal: get out alive. Micah Pearson has a review of this innovative and intense multi-player co-op first-person shooter. | COMING UP

COMEDY

Haunted Laughs

For the past seven years on Howard Stern's show and in his new book, "Too Fat to Fish," Artie Lange has talked hilariously about his many vices, from hard drugs to bad food. He's at the Lincoln Theatre on Friday, and Christopher Porter spoke to the sad funnyman. | ONLINE NOW

poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

DO YOU THINK ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS CAN BE AS EFFECTIVE AS TRADITIONAL MEDICINE?

YES 71% | **NO** 29%

"If alternative treatments prove to be effective, they get absorbed into 'traditional' medicine. Thus, the ones that remain 'alternative' are the ones they can't actually prove work. And if it can't be proven, it's not science."

COMMENTER PMMJ, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "DO YOU THINK ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS CAN BE AS EFFECTIVE AS TRADITIONAL MEDICINE?"

"You certainly need to be careful of herbal remedies, but in this research, alternative treatments also include chiropractors, acupuncture, Pilates, yoga, etc."

COMMENTER MEREDITH, WHO ADDED, "WHILE I'M NOT CURRENTLY USING THESE, SOMETIMES MIND OVER MATTER HELPS THE MOST."

"Are you calling 'Western' medicine 'traditional'? Your 'traditional' medicine is synthetic and created by drug companies for profit, not for your health."

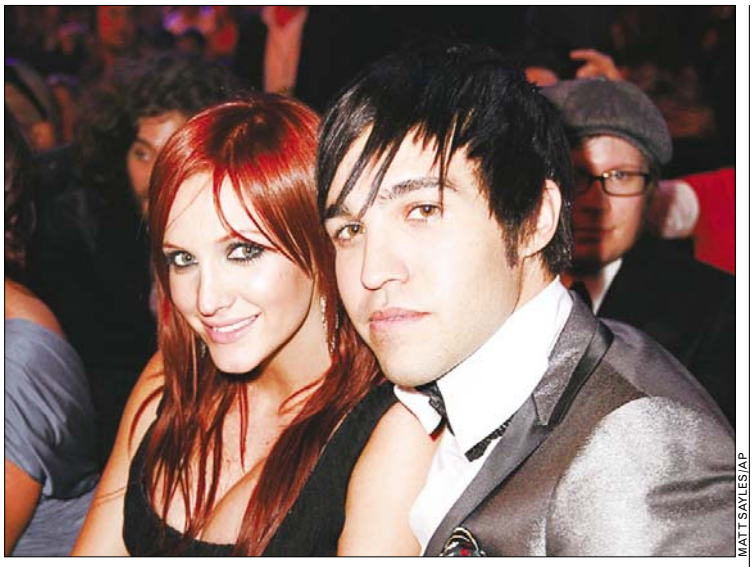
COMMENTER SHAMAN YOU, WHO ADDED, "THE AMA HAS [PROPPED] UP AN INDUSTRY TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL BETTER — NOT LIVE BETTER."

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT **EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER**

Blog LOG

"I'm sick of these new arrivals trying to smear their [crap] all over the most excellent party to hit D.C. since Nixon resigned."

A COMMENTER AT **WASHINGTONCITYPAPER.COM/BLOGS/CITYDESK** TAKES UMBRAGE WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL DISSENT TOWARD THE CITY'S EXTENDED BAR HOURS FOR INAUGURATION WEEK.



MATT SAYLES/AP

"Pete and Ashlee have approached every magazine with offers to sell their first [baby] photos, but nobody wants them."

NYPOST.COM/SEVEN RELAYS A TIDBIT ABOUT THE WENTZES' FIRST BABY FROM A CELEBRITY WEEKLY INSIDER, WHO ADDED, "COVERS OF THEM TEND NOT TO SELL WELL."

"Ever feel like all the good scams are taken? First [there were] the Bogota 'money inspectors.' Those guys rock. [Even more] genius? Anyone who has ever smuggled a monkey."

SHANNONSTAMEY.BLOGSPOT.COM WANTS TO FIND A GOOD EXOTIC SCAM TO PULL OFF ON D.C. TOURISTS VIA CRAIGSLIST.

"SHORTLY BEFORE Merv Griffin died, he put together a collection of the interviews he found most fascinating from his show's archives. The interview I found most compelling was with famed director Orson Welles. What's weird is that Orson, who appears lucid and fairly robust on the show, died two hours later."

GINAVIVINETTO.WORDPRESS.COM FOUND QUITE THE NETFLIX NUGGET WITH "THE MERV GRIFFIN SHOW: 40 OF THE MOST INTERESTING PEOPLE OF OUR TIME" DVD.

Discussions

Marc 'Raw' Fisher

Post Metro columnist **MARC FISHER** was online Thursday and talked about the "expected" crowds on Inauguration Day, the recession and its local effects, and why the greeting "happy holidays" bugs him.

Logistically, how is it even possible for 4 million people to make it into the city for the inauguration? I don't see how the city infrastructure can handle that many people, do you?

It's not possible. It's not even conceivable. But think about it — 4 million people would be well more than one of every 100 Americans. That's just not going to happen. Cut through the hype, and it's likely that we'll have very big crowds, probably more than Metro or the roads can handle, but hardly anything close to those scary numbers. It could be simply that the authorities have decided that it might help moderate the crowds if they put out lots of scary numbers.

How will the Metro governments cope if there is a blizzard on inauguration/MLK birthday weekend? We are due for a winter with a big snowfall.

Actually, I would think a good snow would make the whole thing a lot easier in some ways. Sure, Metro would have big problems, but the snow would likely severely depress turnout, easing the situation in almost every way. The nightmare scenario is extreme cold that forces the swearing-in to be moved indoors; I would think the Obama organizers would resist that move to the max.

Can you stand one more take on the "happy holidays" issue? When I was a child, I figured that the "holidays" encompassed everything from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day.

Sadly, the phrase is used more often as a mealy mouthed way to avoid saying what people really mean, which is merry Christmas. I think you'll find that Jews and other non-Christians don't mind overt Christmas references in the least; the folks who come up with happy holidays nonsense tend to be Christians who are bending over way too far backward to try to be "sensitive." Ugh.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Post education writer Jay Mathews discusses his 2008 Challenge Index rankings of area high schools at noon. | **washingtonpost.com/discussions.**

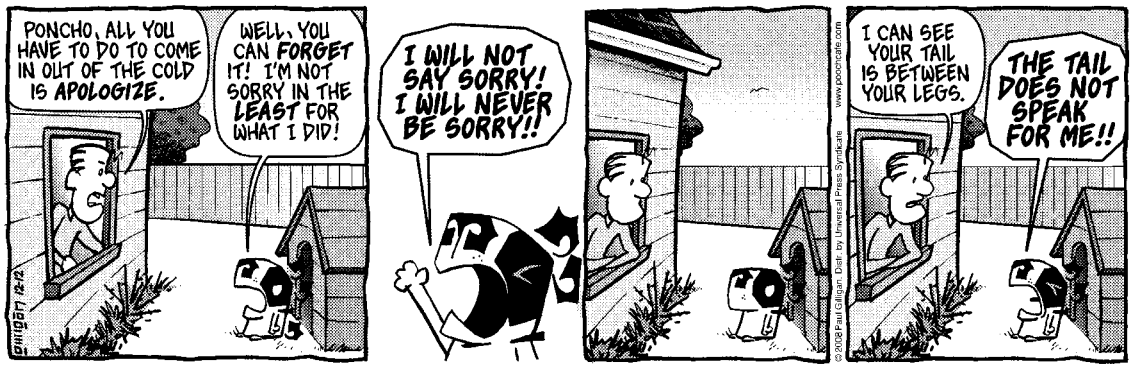
Look out

Bizarro | *Dan Piraro*

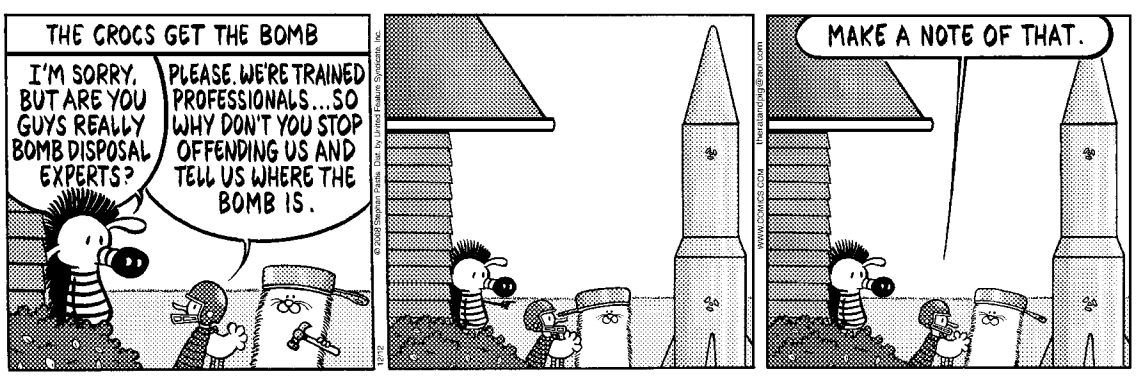
Cornered | *Mike Baldwin*

"I said we need to get back on track – *financially*."

Pooch Cafe | *Paul Gilligan*



Pearls Before Swine | *Stephan Pastis*



The Duplex | *Glenn McCoy*

Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Short-lived gains are less valuable to you than lasting rewards. Take the advice of one who has been there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may meet one of your greatest fans — and the meeting is sure to be memorable for you, if not for all the expected reasons.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You must not run when faced with a seemingly dangerous challenge. You have what it takes to come out on top if you remain calm.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You'll discover a new source of income — but you may be a little doubtful or timid, and afraid to take full advantage of it just yet.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You have been a little too heady and intellectual lately, and you will have the perfect opportunity to respond with your emotions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A special relationship is likely to develop soon, and you'll discover just which direction it is likely to go — like it or not.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) How you speak to others will make all the difference — and one false move on your part could set you back a great deal.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) It's time to get deeper inside yourself, and with a little help you should get a good start. A major discovery is in store.

LEO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is not the time to harbor illusions about what is going on in your life. Address both failure and success with direct frankness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A big question may linger — despite your assertions that the answer is a simple one. Things are more complex than you think.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You will be far busier than you had expected, and decisions you make may have to come remarkably quickly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You are likely to come up with an unusual idea that catches on quickly and gains in popularity day by day. You are on a roll.

AP

Keiko the orca, who appeared in three "Free Willy" movies, died on this day in 2003.

Today in History

1870 Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina becomes the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

1925 The first motel — the Motel Inn — opens in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

1963 Kenya gains its independence from Britain.

2003 Keiko, the killer whale who became famous by appearing in three "Free Willy" movies in the 1990s, dies at age 27 in the Norwegian fjord that he had made his home.

2000 George W. Bush is transformed into the president-elect as a divided U.S. Supreme Court reverses a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election.

Correction:

The Top Stop in the Wednesday issue of Express incorrectly stated that the crackdown known as Prague Spring took place in Poland. The events actually happened in what was known as Czechoslovakia at the time.

PostPoints DAILY CODE UJ

Look out | People

EVAN AGOSTINI/AP

Every time she says something snide about Angelina, a wrinkle disappears.

BEAUTY TIPS

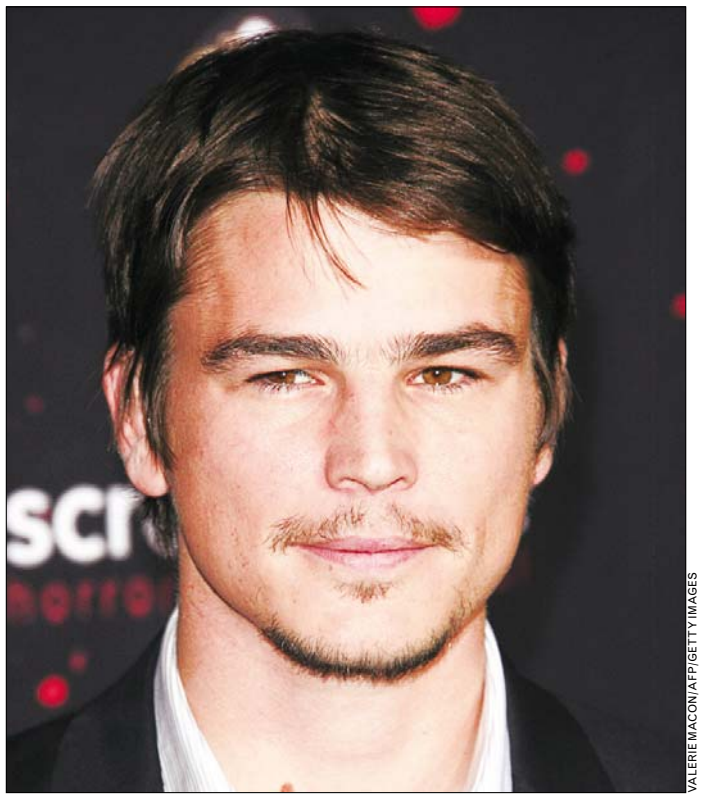
Passive Aggression Increases Hotness in Women Over 35

Jennifer Aniston wears a tie — and nothing else — on the January cover of GQ magazine. The 39-year-old actress strips down and shows off her toned body next to the headline: "Is it just us or is Jennifer Aniston getting hotter?" (AP)

TALENT

Baby Perfects His Moves During First Hour on Earth

USHER has gotten an early holiday gift — a second son. The 29-year-old Atlanta-based singer and his wife, Tameka, are celebrating the birth of Naviyd Ely Raymond. He arrived Wednesday, weighing 5 pounds, 13 ounces. (AP)



VALERIE MACON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

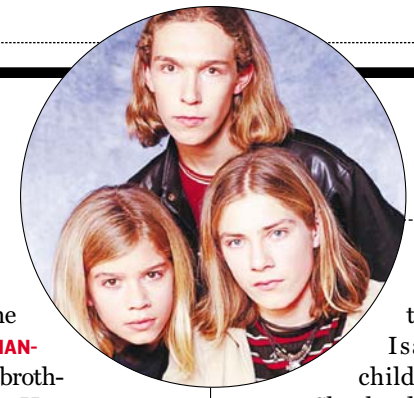
WINNER

Kiss and Make Up

Hollywood actor **JOSH HARTNETT** has won 20,000 pounds ($30,000) in libel damages from a British newspaper that claimed he engaged in "steamy shenanigans" in a public area of a London hotel. The tabloid Daily Mirror claimed in a September article that Hartnett and an unknown woman had a steamy encounter in the library of the Soho Hotel that was caught on CCTV. (AP)

BIRTHS

Pretty Girl Fathers Fourth Child, Fans Confused



From left: Zac, Isaac and Taylor Hanson.

People magazine reports **TAYLOR HANSON**, the middle brother of '90s pop act Hanson, welcomed a son, Viggo Moriah, on Tuesday in Tulsa, Okla. Viggo joins older brothers Ezra, 6, and River, 2, and sister Penelope, 3. The growing Hanson family also includes their cousins, Isaac and Zac's children, Everett, 1, Shepherd, 6 months, and Monroe, 5 months. The boys have also been busy in the studio. They released "Take the Walk," an EP and book, this fall. (EXPRESS)

AWARDS

A Nutty Successor, Too

JERRY LEWIS has never been nominated for an Oscar, but he's going to get one anyway. The 82-year-old will receive the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the Oscar ceremony in February. The Hersholt Award — an Oscar statuette — recognizes humanitarian efforts that have brought credit to the film industry. Lewis has raised more than $2 billion for the Muscular Dystrophy Association through his annual telethons. (AP)

LYRICS

Syndication Raises U.S. History Scores in Tweens

Thirteen-year-old **NAT WOLFF**, star of the TV series "The Naked Brothers Band," said President-elect Barack Obama is "the coolest guy ever" and meeting him led Nat to write a song called, "Yes We Can," which will be featured on the TV show's Christmas special, airing Dec. 13. (AP)

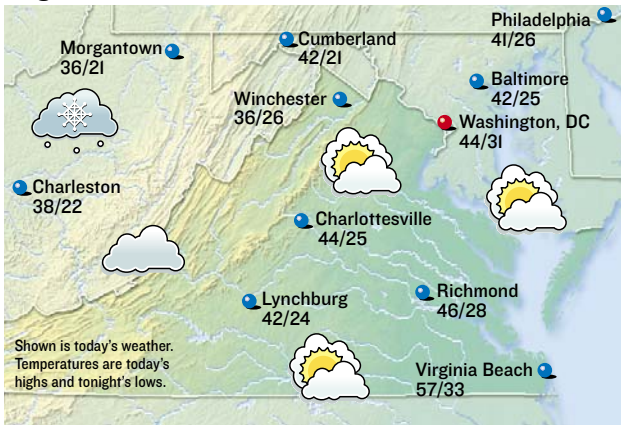
NICKELODEON

Nat Wolff, right, with bandmate Alex.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Breezy, decreasingly cloudy	Mostly clear	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny,warmer	Rain, drizzle possible
44°	31°	40° / 28°	49° / 38°	60° / 43°	52° / 35°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2008

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High	56°
Low	41°
Normal high	48°
Normal low	33°
Average humidity	91%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.48"
Month to date	0.61"
Normal month to date	1.08"
Year to date	44.13"
Last year to date	30.61"
Normal year to date	37.49"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: **washingtonpost.com/weather**

Regional Forecast

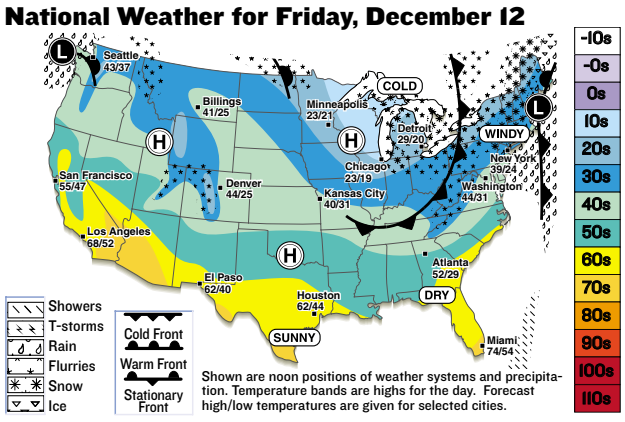
D.C. Metro: Today, decreasingly cloudy, breezy. High 44. Wind north-northwest 10-20 mph. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 31. Wind north 6-12 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:18 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:46 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:38 p.m.
Moonset today	7:25 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 27	Jan 4

National Weather for Friday, December 12



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	52/29/pc	55/35/s
Boston	38/22/r	27/18/s
Chicago	23/19/sf	37/32/c
Dallas	59/42/s	62/58/pc
Denver	44/25/pc	50/21/pc
Honolulu	82/71/r	81/70/r
Los Angeles	68/52/s	59/45/sh
Miami	74/54/pc	73/61/pc
New York City	39/24/r	38/28/s
Orlando	63/42/pc	65/50/pc
Seattle	43/37/r	40/31/sn

World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	39/29/pc	39/28/pc
Athens	65/50/sh	63/52/s
Berlin	35/32/sn	37/34/c
Buenos Aires	81/68/pc	82/70/pc
Calgary	29/-3/sf	-2/-16/sf
Dublin	48/39/r	45/37/sh
Geneva	33/25/sn	36/34/s
Moscow	32/25/pc	28/23/pc
Rome	51/43/sh	52/43/pc
Sydney	75/64/r	77/63/pc
Tokyo	60/51/pc	57/52/c

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Puzzles | Look out

CROSSWORD | TOSS WITHOUT TURNING

ACROSS
1 Destructive insect
7 First shepherd
11 Aid for lost souls, briefly?
14 Olympic activities
15 Batting practice area
16 Tow truck letters
17 Hurry on horseback
18 Small floor covering
20 Resinous substance
21 Defensible
22 Butcher's offering
27 Rise suddenly
28 In fine fettle
29 French Dadaist
30 Curative locale
32 Blood typing system
33 Ruler of yore
34 More than heavy
38 They demand exact conformity to rules
42 Hard-nosed
43 Upkeep
44 Partner of food and lodging
45 Shape of mountain roads, sometimes
47 Legendary beast
48 "Help yourself"
49 "The ___ Piper of Hamelin"
52 Hurl tableware?
55 Lacking taste
57 Hightailed it
58 Kind of stomach
60 No more than
63 Unspecified person
64 "Everything must go" event
65 "G'day!" sayer
66 Countdown start, often
67 Furthermore
68 Port on the Black Sea

DOWN
1 Long John Silver had one
2 Eggs
3 Chief constituent of all plant tissues
4 Break a tie?
5 Nasdaq offering
6 1/6 fluid ounces
7 Dramatic division
8 Thailand money
9 White-tailed herons
10 "Battle Cry" author Uris
11 Greta of "Camille"
12 Judge Abdul
13 "That's What Friends Are For" co-writer Carol
19 Spicy condiment
22 Problems in the 2000 election
23 Nun's wear
24 Harsh vocal quality
25 Degree candidate's exam
26 Brandy flavor
31 Epidermal opening
33 Altoids containers
35 Prompt willingness
36 Carroll creature
37 "Sissy," mostly
39 "Bureau" or "union" preceder
40 Drug cop
41 Aqueduct formation
46 Perfect pigskin toss
48 Barely able to talk
49 Decorative loop
50 Absurd
51 German industrial center
53 Adored ones
54 Sigmund or Anna
56 Where Galileo was born
59 Prefix meaning "new"
60 "The Little Red Book" writer
61 Fleur-de-___
62 Congressional approval

Yesterday's Solution

P	E	R	K		I	P	A	S	S		A	S	A	N
A	R	E	A		D	I	C	T	A		B	A	D	E
L	A	S	T	P	I	C	T	U	R	E	S	H	O	W
				A	E	O	N		D	A	Y	C	A	R	E
O	P	E	R	A	T	I	C			E	A	R	N	S
H	A	N	I	F		C	O	M	A		M	A	S	T
S	I	G	N	O	R		U	R	S	A				
	D	R	A	W	I	N	G	S	T	R	A	W	S	
				L	A	T	H		I	M	P	A	C	T
M	A	W	R		S	H	U	T		O	P	R	A	H
A	L	O	E	S			P	I	M	I	E	N	T	O
R	O	O	T	L	E	T		T	E	R	N			
T	H	E	A	R	T	O	F	T	H	E	D	E	A	L
H	A	R	I		A	G	L	E	T		I	A	G	O
A	S	S	N		L	A	U	R	A		X	R	A	Y

EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

SAMURAI SUDOKU | HARD

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

Last Week's Solution

4	5	1	2	7	9	6	3	8				4	6	2	7	5	8	3	1	9
2	8	9	3	5	6	7	4	1				5	7	1	3	6	9	2	4	8
3	6	7	4	8	1	9	5	2				9	8	3	1	2	4	5	6	7
8	4	5	9	2	7	1	6	3				7	2	4	9	1	5	6	8	3
9	1	3	5	6	8	2	7	4				8	3	5	4	7	6	9	2	1
6	7	2	1	3	4	5	8	9				1	9	6	8	3	2	7	5	4
7	2	4	6	1	3	8	9	5	2	3	4	6	1	7	2	4	3	8	9	5
1	3	8	7	9	5	4	2	6	1	7	9	3	5	8	6	9	1	4	7	2
5	9	6	8	4	2	3	1	7	5	6	8	2	4	9	5	8	7	1	3	6
						5	3	8	6	9	2	1	7	4						
						2	4	1	7	5	3	8	9	6						
						7	6	9	4	8	1	5	2	3						
2	4	5	1	8	9	6	7	3	9	2	5	4	8	1	5	3	2	6	7	9
1	7	8	3	2	6	9	5	4	8	1	6	7	3	2	6	8	9	4	1	5
3	6	9	4	5	7	1	8	2	3	4	7	9	6	5	1	4	7	2	3	8
6	5	1	8	3	4	7	2	9				1	4	6	7	5	3	8	9	2
8	3	4	7	9	2	5	1	6				3	5	9	2	6	8	1	4	7
7	9	2	5	6	1	3	4	8				2	7	8	4	9	1	3	5	6
4	2	3	6	1	5	8	9	7				5	2	3	8	7	4	9	6	1
5	8	7	9	4	3	2	6	1				6	1	4	9	2	5	7	8	3
9	1	6	2	7	8	4	3	5				8	9	7	3	1	6	5	2	4

7		4	5		9	6		2				2		3	4		1	7		9
			3		2										6		9			
	2						9						9						5	
8			9					1				3					7			5
	9	1				7	4						4	5				9	7	
4				7	1			8				9			5	2				3
	4								8		1								3	
			7														5			
1		7	6		3					2					8		2	5		4
									2		8									
							3						1							
									3		4									
2		6	7		9					6					2		4	1		7
			3														9			
	4								1		3								4	
6				3	7			9				4			7	5				8
	3	4				6	1						7	8				6	1	
9			4					8				6					2			3
	6						8						2						9	
			6		8										4		8			
7		8	2		4	1		3				9		6	1		5	7		4

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CLASSIC SUDOKU | HARD

1				3	8		5	
	2						8	6
	5	4						
		2			7		6	
			3		2			
	7		5			8		
						6	1	
5	1						7	
	3		1	2				4

© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

Yesterday's Solution

8	5	2	9	3	4	1	7	6
4	1	9	5	6	7	8	2	3
7	6	3	2	1	8	9	4	5
3	8	1	7	4	2	5	6	9
9	2	6	8	5	1	7	3	4
5	7	4	6	9	3	2	1	8
1	4	5	3	2	9	6	8	7
2	9	7	4	8	6	3	5	1
6	3	8	1	7	5	4	9	2

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Need more Su|do|ku?
Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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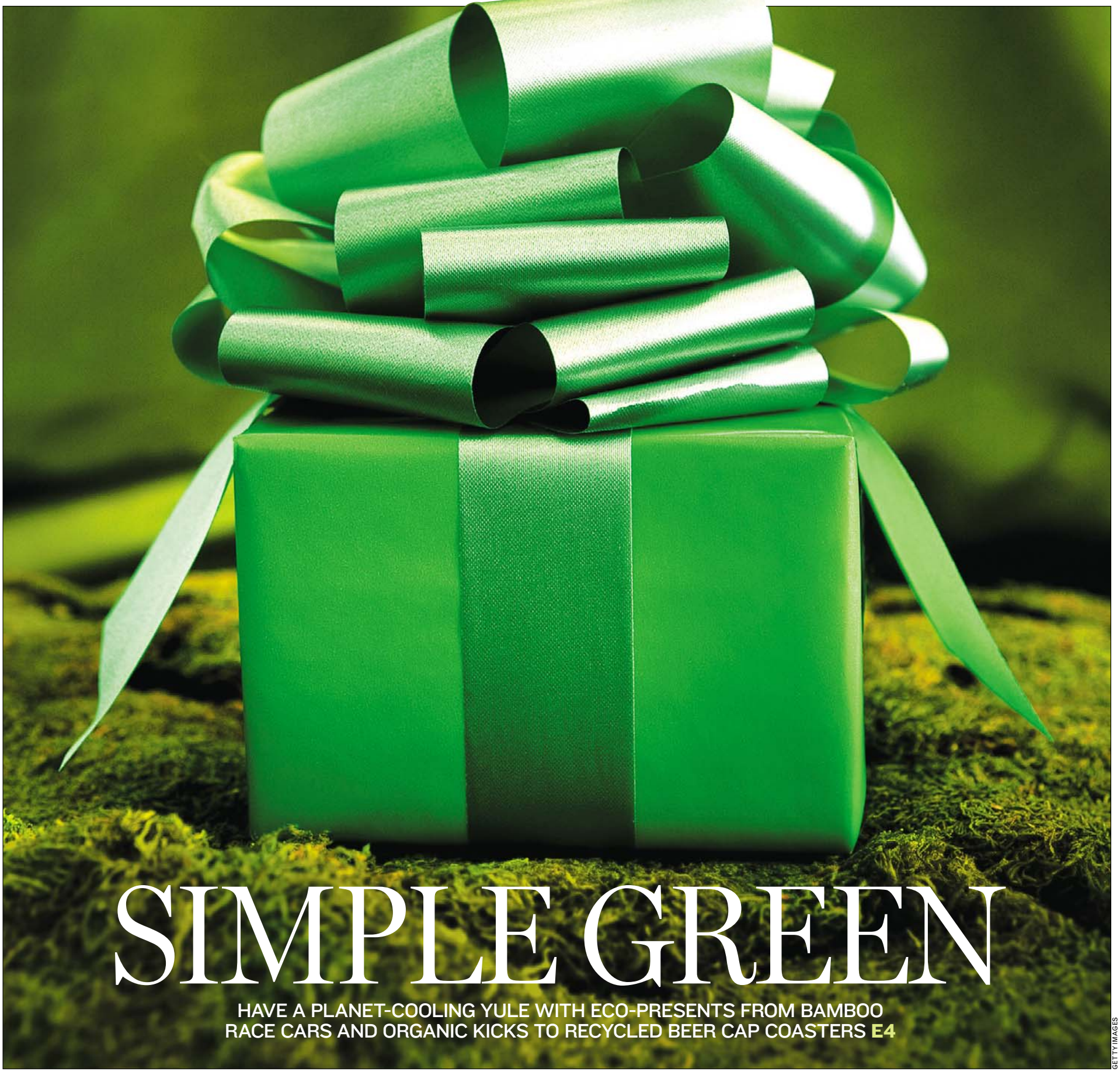
Crop Model: D.C.'s 'Stylista' on fab clothes, Web shops and her hip 'do | E2



SIMPLE GREEN

HAVE A PLANET-COOLING YULE WITH ECO-PRESENTS FROM BAMBOO RACE CARS AND ORGANIC KICKS TO RECYCLED BEER CAP COASTERS E4

GETTY IMAGES

face Q+A time

Chinese-military analysts rarely appear on reality TV. But they also rarely appreciate clothes like Johanna Cox, 28. She took on D.C.'s lacking sartorial sense with her blog, A Serious Job Is No Excuse, and she's won a spot in the final three on the CW's "Stylista." Watch the show Dec. 17 to see whether she snags the Elle magazine editorial gig.

JIM DEYONKER/THE CW

Johanna Cox

ASPIRING FASHION SCRIBE, CHINA ANALYST

What got you into fashion?
I was always conscious of the effects that clothing could have on confidence level or mood. It was something my mother instilled in me. If you have an exam or are speaking in public, if you put on something that will make you more confident, you'll get over your fear.

What's your style like?
It depends on where I am. I'm conscious of my audience and venue. But I focus on high necklines and fitted styles in black, gray and white. I like the drama to come from the cut and details, not a print.

Why such high necklines?
I don't really like accessories much, and I only have a certain amount of money to spend. So, with a dramatic neckline, I don't need a necklace. I never change my earrings. I don't want to detract from the clothes.

Where do you buy your clothes?
I never shop in D.C. — I mainly buy online. The boutiques here don't research. They'll have things on their regular racks that have been on sale for months online. My favorites are Funkylala.com and Net-a-porter.com. When they have their sales, it's like Christmas morning.

How much time does it take you to get dressed in the morning?
I have a Jack Russell terrier, which complicates things even more. I have a four-block commute to work, so it shouldn't take me two hours to get there, but I don't like to be rushed. I think of getting ready as an LSAT logic game. You have to think about the weather, your mood, what you'll be doing. It's always a deliberation. But it's my favorite part of the day.

What's your favorite thing in your closet right now?
Probably my Robert Rodriguez "Spanish Rose" dress. It has a sculptural neckline, and it makes me feel so dressed up and lovely.

There was discussion on the show about different body types. Can larger women wear high fashion?
Tall, slim women look best in everything. Most of us have to learn to accentuate the positive and downplay the negative. I love clothes so much, I don't want to be limited by the body I have. I don't want to be in a situation where there are 10 trends for next fall and I can't wear eight of them because of my thighs. It takes effort to look slim, and I don't think I should be insulted for it.

> "If it grows out even a little bit, [my 'do] looks like a Dorothy Hamill bowl cut."

Your hair also looks like it requires some effort. How'd you get that 'do?
I saw a photo of a model with short hair who looked punky but still really gamine. Even in a Juicy Couture sweat suit, that looks edgy. I thought I'd love to have that built into my look, but it took awhile to get it right. First, it was soccer mom, then half-soccer mom, half-punk. I finally found a stylist [at D.C.'s Urban Style Lab] who got it right. I worked out a deal so I can go to him every week. When I wake up, I don't need to do a thing, but if it grows out even a little bit, it looks like a Dorothy Hamill bowl cut. VICKY HALLETT (EXPRESS)

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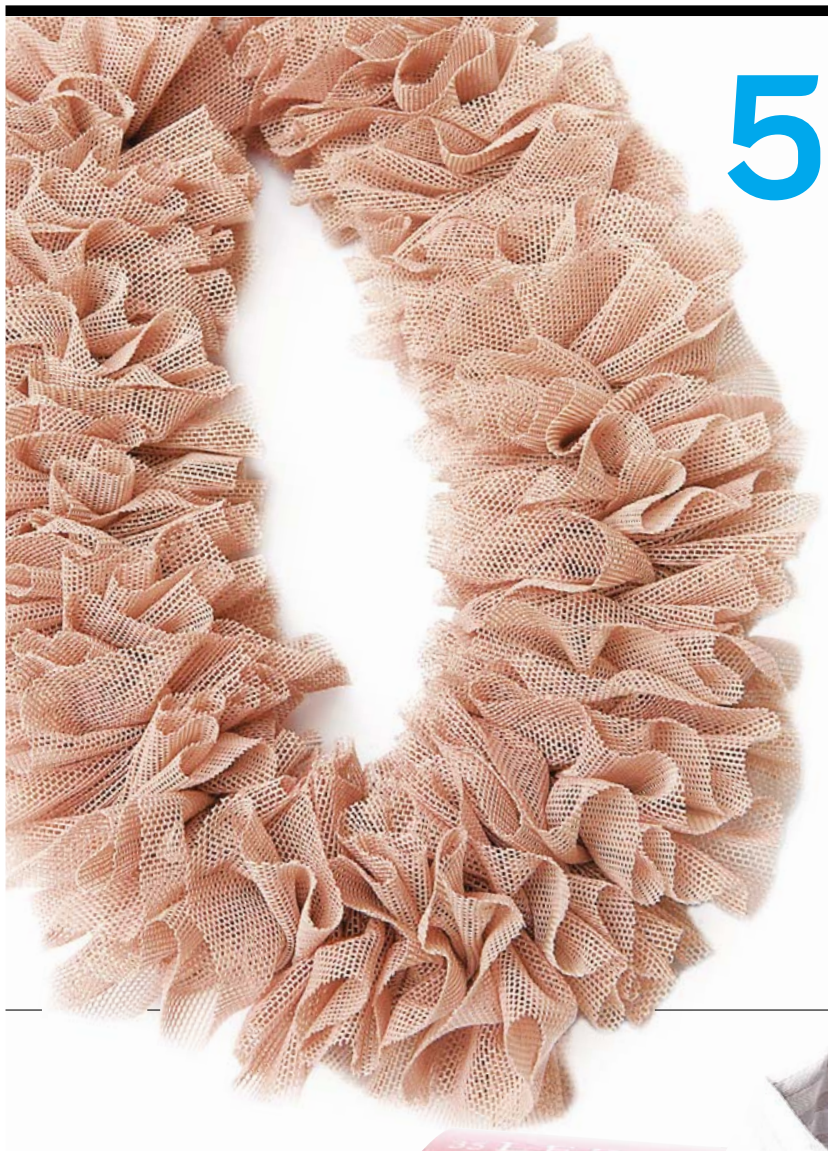


5 The Frill Factor

THERE'S SOMETHING about this season's theatrical, ruffled necklines that give even the most basic top a fashionable Victorian-esque flair. This Juliet collar necklace from New Orleans-based accessories line Dejarnette ($108, Dejarnettenola.com) is our favorite take on the trend: The artfully constructed folds of chiffon, in delicate blush pink (or, if you prefer, noirish black) add a romantic-yet-dramatic edge to a simple sheath dress or a crisp button-down.

3 Easy on the Eyes

LIKE PARALLEL PARKING or the perfect apple pie crust, flawless eye makeup seemed like one of those things only a few can really master. Until now. Cargo's Essential Eye Palette ($32, Sephora.com) — a four-color compact of universally flattering neutrals — has the targeted application area (lid, brow bone) stamped into each shade, making it easy for anyone to create nuanced peepers.

Grab Bag

2 Earthy Glow

WE'RE DREAMING of a green Christmas. Which makes these eco-friendly holiday lights ($12.50, Greater Goods, 1626 U St. NW; 202-449-6070) the perfect environmentally approved replacement for those electricity-sucking strands of years past. The durable, long-lasting and energy-efficient LED bulbs (which also come in green, red and white) stay cool to the touch, even after twinkling for hours. Almost as important, they're just cool to look at.

Armed for a Party

PAPER HOLIDAY vino bags are not only unattractive (grinning snowmen should never get that close to a nice bottle of cab); they're only good for one or two wine handoffs. (And a foil sack cannot disguise Three-Buck Chuck anyhow.) The Sleevino ($15, Homebody, 715 Eighth St. SE; 202-544-8445) brings wry humor to your next booze-gifting experience, and its, um, menswear-inspired good looks will withstand dozens of grapey handouts.

1 St. Nick Nibbles

SANTA IS BEST known for chowing down on sweets (cookies, a candy cane or two), not impersonating them. But to D.C. chocolatier Eric Johnson, the ho-ho meister screamed bonbon. His marzipan cap-wearing Santa's Little Truffles ($30 for six, Krishon.com) come in flavors like coconut caramel and mint crunch. They'd taste nice with port or bubbly. Whether you put any out for the man in the red suit is your call.

dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

My boyfriend and I are going to Italy in March. I want to look as good as possible while we're sightseeing, because: 1) I'm in Italy and 2) I don't want to look like a tourist and be an easy target for thieves. Of course, I'll need good-looking shoes that I can wear all day. Please help.

— MARIE

■ Manolo says, ayyyy! To be going to Italy during the springtime, when the air is fresh, the flowers are blooming and when the footpads, cutpurses and pickpockets of Rome greet the new season with hopeful enthusiasm, because the tourist, one of nature's wonders, has returned to his seasonal grazing grounds, bringing with him the bounty of cameras, loose cash and unsecured personal belongings.

Of the course, as any competent thief knows, it is almost impossible for any tourist to look like the native without first buying the local wardrobe, getting the local haircut and adopting the local hand gestures, however distasteful they may be.

The solution thus is to buy the new shoes in Italy, but until you do so, try these Cole Haan Penny Aire Loafers ($212, Zappos.com). Not Italian, but comfortable and stylish nonetheless.

@ Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at Shoeblogs.com.

event horizon

→ Daily until Dec. 23, Penn Quarter's Downtown Holiday Market (F and Ninth streets NW) offers locally made gifts and hot doughnuts from noon to 8 p.m.

Styles | holidays

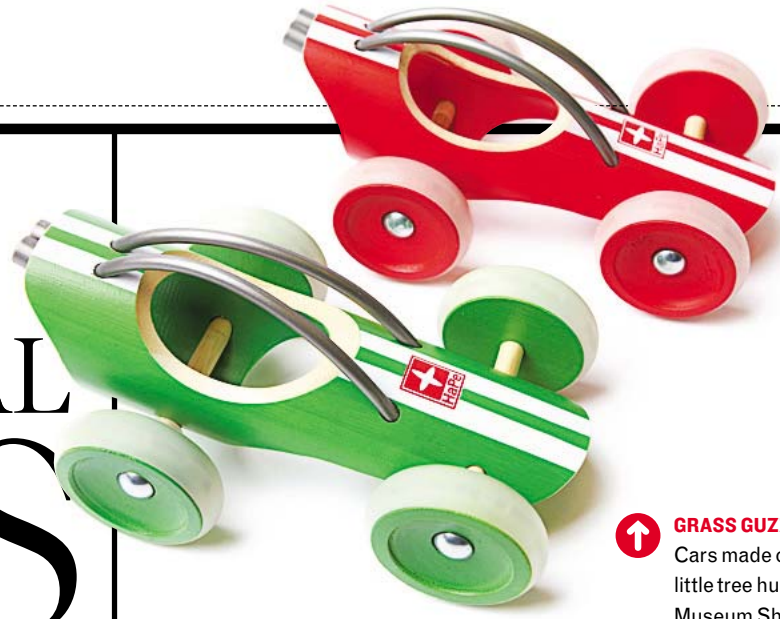
ECO-NOMICAL GIFTS

EARTH- (AND WALLET-) FRIENDLY PRESENTS WILL ROCK THIS YULE WITHOUT WRECKING THE PLANET

The lousy economy and depressing environmental news (polar bears in peril, Dubya in office for another month) could cause anyone to have a blue Christmas. But the slew of green (yet lean-in price) presents packing local stores and Web sites could cheer up even an eco-guru like Ed Begley Jr. or Al Gore. "We're seeing a broader range of eco-gifts," says Meaghan O'Neill, editor of Treehugger.com and Planetgreen.com. "Some can even help you both go green and save money," like a bamboo cutlery set (pictured) that would encourage its recipient to forgo plastic forks when thriftily bringing lunch to work.

Other hot, planet-cooling loot? "I'm selling a lot of things made of reclaimed materials," says Daryl Wakely of Alexandria's eco-chic Bungalow Homewares Gallery (1901A Mount Vernon Ave.; 703-299-8899). Think highball glasses cut from vintage soda-pop bottles, display boxes formed of old packing crates (shown) or pillows woven of water hyacinth fibers.

Still, loading up your sleigh (and credit card) with too many recycled newspaper frames or soy candles isn't the point, either. "Choosing quality over quantity is green," says O'Neill. (No, this does not that mean asking Santa for Jimmy Choos will save Antarctica.) Consider, too, giving an antique. "It's the original way to repurpose," says Wakely. "Pass down an heirloom, and you preserve family traditions." Which is what the season is all about anyway. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)



$25 & under

GRASS GUZZLERS
Cars made of strands of bamboo add vroom to a little tree hugger's toy chest ($20, National Building Museum Shop, 401 F St. NW; 202-272-2448).

GIMME A CHUG
You recycle your empties, right? Take green drinking one re-useful step further with coasters decked with bottle caps ($5 each, Go Mama Go!, 1809 14th St. NW; 202-299-0850).

THE DESK SET
Sustainable bamboo cutlery rolls up in a funky carrying case, insuring cubicle lunchers chomp their Amy's Organic frozen entrees in low-carbon style ($20, Greater Goods, 1626 U St. NW; 202-449-6070).

SCENTS-ABLE
Vetiver sachets — made of a sustainable, sweet-smelling grass from India — remove the stink of consumerism ($20, Bungalow Homewares Gallery, 1901A Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 703-299-8899).

THE GARDEN BATH
Natural oils star in bath bombs and soaps from Rockville-based Athena's Olive Tree ($3.25-$5.95, Athenasolivetree.com).

DIGIT DAZZLER
To make her fab je
Michelle Kendrick
and wraps them i
beads ($30, Recyc

POUR YOU
Organic oil. Fair-tr
Serve any PC liqui
and Badger's recy
etched bottles ($3
Breadandbadger.c

READING TW
We pray print
stand this bag
have jobs ($4

holidays | Styles

elry, designer
kes old rings
hread and
drings.com).

MAKE MY DISPLAY
Reclaimed wood boxes can be filled with shells (or old campaign buttons) and put on a wall or table ($20-$35, Bungalow Homewares).

e honey.
n Bread
ed glass
each,
m).

NUTS AND BOWLS
Help Mr. or Ms. Fix It accessorize his or her rehabbed Petworth rowhouse with a vessel of reused screws ($42, National Building Museum Shop).

T
urnalism isn't dying. If it is, no one will under-
tuffed with shredded magazines. And we won't
National Building Museum Shop).

$50 & under

TREADS LIGHTLY
Autonomie Project's new high-tops amount to Chucks for the PC set: They're fair-trade and made with organic cotton ($56, Thegreenloop.com).

$150 & und

GREEN LEAN-ON
Sustainable sea grass helps sustain your pad's style via ruggedly chic crochet pillow covers ($59 each, Bungalow Homewares).

CAPITAL PRETTY
She can show local pride at the inauguration — or a voting rights rally — with a purse made of a recycled license plate ($140, Go Mama Go!).

THE STITCH IS BACK
Her hip, handmade sweater goes better with a necklace made from old knitting needles ($54, National Building Museum Shop).

TAIL RIDE
Post-consumer plastics get recycled into snuggly fleece for pet beds (small/medium $120-$140; Trixieandpeanut.com).

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No-Footprint Fête

Keep holiday spirit high and environmental impact low

The holidays give you a warm, fuzzy feeling. But driving over the river and through the woods, tree-chopping and gift-buying causes the planet to heat up, and not in a nice way. But a globe-cooling yule doesn't mean being grinchy and forgoing Christmas, Hanukkah or your winter solstice ritual. In "Green Christmas: How to Have a Joyous, Eco-Friendly Holiday Season" ($8, Adams Media), environmental pros Jennifer Basye Sander, Peter Sander and Anne Basye offer tips on shrinking your carbon footprint during the most wonderful time of the year. We spoke with Basye Sander about regifting, fake tannenbaums and more. BETH LUBERECKI

ISTOCK

Q+A

Why are the holidays bad for the planet?
We live in a consumer-oriented society, and it all comes to a head during the holidays. Even people who are restrained throughout the year think, "I have to do this." It all just combines into this orgy of buying.

Are Americans really ready to scale down their holiday celebrations?
People are interested in changing their habits. Even if they aren't going to change to LED lights or more green ways to celebrate, they are going to think about what effect their actions have.

Does a bad economy make it more appealing to go green?
There's a unique opportunity this year. People will consider cutting back. They will be accidentally very green, at least in terms of consumption and excess waste. Maybe they won't be buying the shiny gift wrap and ribbon.

Is a green holiday less stressful?
Gosh, yes. If we opt out, even just out of some of it, it's sure going to be less stressful. Much of the stress we bring on ourselves. It's not only going someplace and finding the perfect gift; it's presenting the gift in the most perfect way.

Is a real or a fake tree more environmentally friendly?
A real tree is the way to go. The primary reason is that small family farms produce the trees. You're spending an afternoon on land that someone has owned a long time and is their primary income. This is not a major corporation or big factory; it's a couple of acres where someone is growing trees. It's not a crop that requires a lot of pesticides. It's not wrecking the environment.

What are some good recommendations for eco-friendly gifts?
It's much more meaningful to give somebody a gift you have made yourself versus something you bought. One of the things we also recommend is giving experiences rather than actual physical gifts.

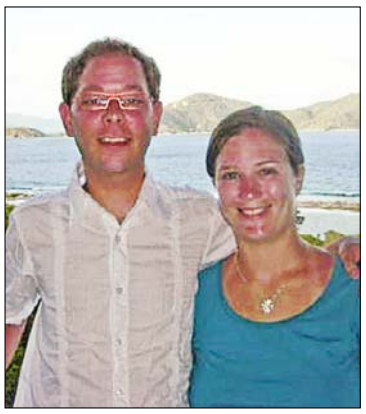
What about regifting?
I don't feel guilty about regifting. If someone has given me something, what I do with it beyond that is my choice. I want to keep things moving. I end up with interesting things that way.

Why is it better to shop at locally owned stores than the big chains?
You're literally keeping the money in your own neighborhood for the benefit of your community. When you shop at locally owned stores, you're building more important relationships with people. It's a great feeling to walk into a store and have someone say, "Hi, Jennifer. How are you?"

What are some tips for getting kids or die-hard traditionalists to agree to simpler celebrations?
It's no fun for anybody on Christmas Day for a kid to say, "Two presents — that's it? Where's the rest of the stuff, Mommy?" That's not when you want to say, "I took into account the impact on the environment this year." You need to talk about this and not spring it on them. When people make a big shift in thinking or behavior, it always goes better if you clue everybody in.

B.I.O.

BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



Rebecca Riklin, Stephen Willie

Rebecca, 28, works for the government. Stephen, also 28, works for a consulting firm. They live in Bethesda.

■ **The Main Event:** A Jan. 2 ceremony at Antrim 1844, a historic country inn in Taneytown, Md. They have invited 175 guests to witness their union and celebrate their future with a formal dinner followed by dancing.

■ **How They Met:** At the Cornerstone Grill in College Park in 2001, the night Maryland made it to the Final Four. "I saw her early in the night and decided I wanted to get to know her," Steve says.

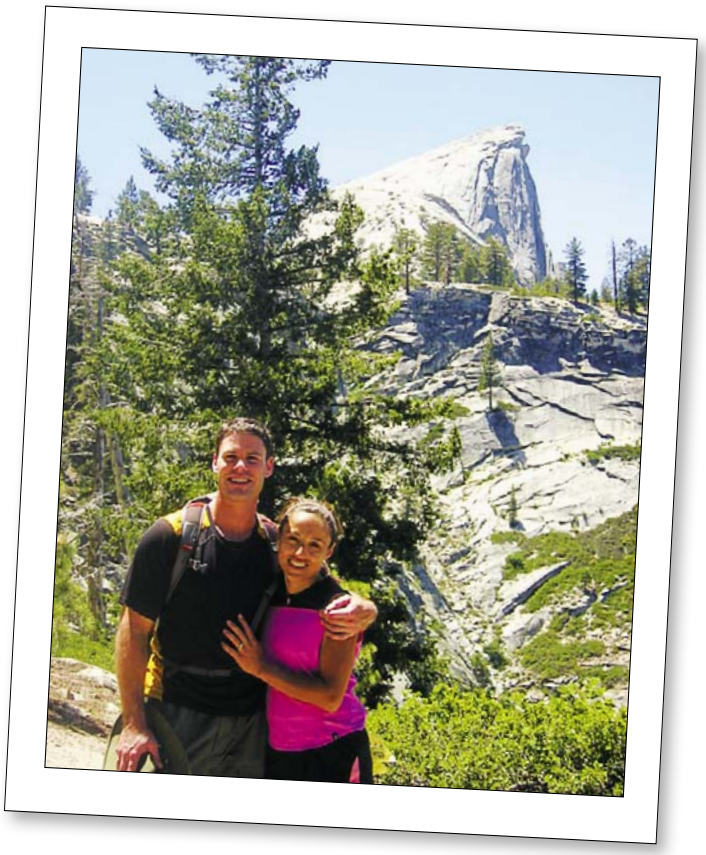
■ **How He Proposed:** "We were supposed to meet friends for dinner at an Italian restaurant in Georgetown. When I started getting nervous they were running late, he told me they were not coming. He got down on one knee and took out the ring. I was speechless," Rebecca says.

■ **Stupidest Fight:** "Steve always asks me to get Popsicles when I go to the grocery store. I once argued with him from the grocery store about whether or not he needed more."

■ **With Unlimited Funds:** "I would have had a destination wedding in Italy at a villa. Steve and I traveled in Italy right after we started dating. That's where we fell in love," Rebecca says.

■ **Mmm, Cake:** Three tiers and three flavors: red velvet, chocolate and almond.

"He got down on one knee and took out the ring. I was speechless."

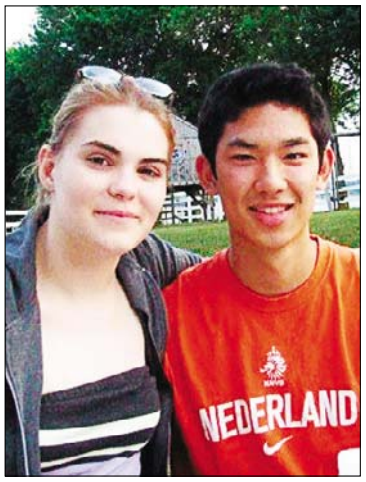


Mountain High

TOBIAS MOYER, 27 isn't afraid of a challenge. The moment he spied **CECELIA PIZANO**, 31, in a D.C. bar, he fell head over heels for the pretty brunette. "There was no way I was not going to introduce myself," he says. Cecelia remembers their 2006 meeting, too. "I ignored his attempts to talk to me and stared at my phone," she says.

Tobias was undeterred. "I thought she was a tough cookie, and I loved it." And his spirit paid off. Cecelia says, "I looked up and realized he was really cute and decided to listen." Within a month, the two were inseparable.

When the couple planned a vacation to hike Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, Tobias decided to up the ante again. Not only does he have a fear of heights, but he was also planning to propose at the summit. The climb took the pair five hours, but once they reached the top, the paralegal by day, law student by night got down on one knee. He will marry the speech pathologist in Puerto Vallarta on June 6. The uphill climb is over. (EXPRESS)



Minh Pham, Georgia Pitts

Georgia, 23, is a receptionist at a law firm. Minh, 22, is an animal caretaker at the National Institutes of Health. They live in Rockville.

■ **The Main Event:** After a morning ceremony at St. Mary's Church in North Bethesda on July 25, the couple will host a lunchtime reception for 120 guests at Normandie Farm, a French restaurant in Potomac, Md.

■ **How They Met:** At a barbecue at the beginning of their junior year at the University of Delaware.

■ **First Date:** A trip to a haunted house and a hayride, although, Georgia says, "we spent every Sunday after the barbecue watching the Redskins game at his house."

■ **How He Proposed:** On Labor Day after dinner at Dos Locos on the beach in Rehoboth. Minh held up a handful of sand saying that he'd found a treasure. "I thought he was playing around, but he let the sand fall out of his hand and the ring was there," Georgia says.

"I thought he was playing, but he let the sand fall out of his hand and the ring was there."

■ **Heritage:** "We are trying to think of ways to incorporate Minh's unique heritage: part Vietnamese, Chinese and Panamanian."

■ **The Cake:** A homemade tower of cupcakes made by a good friend iced in pink and mocha to match the wedding colors.

Courtney Dickson, Isamu Massey

Courtney, 25, is a program analyst for the State Department. Isamu, 27, is a naval officer. The bride lives in D.C. and the groom lives in Destin, Fla. They will move together to Isamu's next duty station in the spring.

■ **The Main Event:** A ceremony on Jan. 3 at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. Their reception will take place at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Merrill Center.

■ **How They Met:** On June 4, 2006 at a Mariners game in Seattle. "My brother and her bro-in-law went to law school together. We all met at Safeco Field and the rest is history," Sam says.

■ **First Date:** "I thought I'd stick with the sports theme and watch the NBA finals," Sam says. "I had her at the first chicken wing."

■ **When She Knew:** "We chaperoned a Valentine's Day dance for special needs adults. The participants loved him so much. They couldn't wait to dance with him or show him their Michael Jackson impressions. He was so patient, kind and compassionate. I was so happy they loved him as much as I did. The [attendees] helped me realize Sam was a catch I could never let go," Courtney says.

■ **Their Song:** "Right now, Sam likes to sing me Beyonce's 'Put a Ring on It.'"

■ **Stupidest Fight:** "About Krispy Kreme's melt factor," Courtney says. "Whether or not to have a barbecue buffet at our reception. I lost," Sam says.

■ **Heritage:** At the reception, the couple will don Japanese attire. "I will wear a beautiful red uchikake [a wedding kimono] with white cranes," Courtney says.

Getting Married? If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names and ceremony date to weddings@readexpress.com. Please contact us at least one month before your wedding. We'll get back to you with some questions as your big day approaches.

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